
CARES ACT/ESSER FUNDS





CARES ACT – APPROVED MARCH 27, 2020

- On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the CARES Act, which is a \$2 trillion package of assistance measures. The 880 page Act is available at <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr748/BILLS-116hr748enr.pdf>
- The CARES Act provides States the opportunity to apply for waivers and to request funding.



WAIVERS

- The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requested waivers.
- Additional information regarding waiver and waiver requests are on the DESE CARES Act Webpage.
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1N0fOukqQiuXGui7kmUUUFHysBJ02LCGL757LHKGwGSQ/>



WAIVERS

- Assessment, Accountability and Reporting Waiver
- Federal Funds Waiver for Perkins
- Federal Funds Waiver



FUNDING



- The CARES Act provides multiple opportunities for funding.
 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund
 - Congress set aside approximately \$13.2 billion for ESSER funds.
 - Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund



01

Document, document, document!! LEA will be responsible for supporting evidence and documentation of expenditures

02

DESE is required to monitor LEA expenditures of ESSER funds

03

At the end of the fiscal year, the LEA will upload the expenditure ledger for ESSER funds into Indistar

ESSER FUNDS — REPORTING



ESSER FUNDS – FOCUS OF FUNDS



Food Security



Direct Student
Support/Continuous
Learning Opportunities



Technology



Systemic Procedures





ESSER FUNDS — FOOD SECURITY

- ESSER funds may address expenses in food service programs due to COVID-19 that have not been covered by other funds or reimbursements and ongoing costs for districts that continue to operate meal service during the summer and in preparation for the fall.



ESSER FUNDS – DIRECT STUDENT SUPPORT/CONTINUOUS LEARNING

- Districts should consider the learning needs of each child and the resources need to address those needs.
- Examples: supplemental work days or contracted services to prepare for return to on-site instruction, screening/formative/diagnostic assessment tools, interventions, targeted summer programs, professional development



ESSER FUNDS — TECHNOLOGY

- Districts should consider technology that supports remote learning that aligns with the district continuity of district support plan, supports connectivity or adaptation of educational content
- Internet connectivity purchases should be compliant with the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA)





ESSER FUNDS – SYSTEMIC PROCEDURES

- Defined as actions or systems a district implements in response to the COVID-19 crisis, and for recovery efforts that contribute to the return to onsite instruction for staff and students.



ESSER FUNDS — TIMELINES

01

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
CHECK REGISTER
UPLOADED IN
INDISTAR BY
9/30/2020

02

FINAL REVISIONS TO
APPLICATION,
BUDGET, GEPA
STATEMENT
UPLOADED IN
INDISTAR BY
12/1/2020

03

FUNDS MUST BE
OBLIGATED BY
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022



ESSER FUNDS — ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES

- Expenditures must be reasonable, necessary and allocable
- Expenditures to address the district's continuity of learning and district support plan
- Expenditures to prepare for remote learning, returning to onsite learning and blended learning
- Expenditures should address all teachers and students, including special populations and students most at-risk



ESSER FUNDS — UNALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES

- Not allowed to use funds to subsidize or offset executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees
- Not allowed for expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations



ESSER FUNDS – CODING

**Fund/Source
of Fund 6780**

**Revenue Code
45980**

**Specific
Subject Codes
180-193**



ESSER FUNDS — RETENTION REQUIREMENTS

- Financial records, supporting documents and all documentation of reasonable, necessary, and allocable must be retained for four (4) years from date of submission of final expenditure report

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IF YOU ARE NOT 100% SURE ABOUT EXPENDITURE BEING ALLOWABLE, SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION(S) TO EMAIL ADDRESS ABOVE

ESSER QUESTIONS



ESSER REIMBURSEMENT DATES



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- June 13, 2020
- July 11 & 25, 2020
- August 8 & 22, 2020
- September 12 & 26, 2020
- Beginning October 10, 2020 – reimbursements will be pulled monthly on the 2nd Saturday of each month
- FINAL Pull – December 10, 2022



ESSER/CARES EXPENDITURE REVIEW

Expenditures are reviewed each week by Fiscal Services and Support to determine allowability

Descriptions of expenditures need to be as detailed as possible, otherwise you will receive a call to verify what purchases to determine allowability



ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Budgeting for ESSER funds
 - 10% variance
- Considerations when reclassifying funds to and/or purchasing with ESSER –
 - Is it an allowable expense for ESSER funds?
 - How will this impact MOE?
 - If reclassifying an M&O expense (function 26XX), how will it impact the 9% M&O requirement? If 9% M&O requirement is not met, then money will have to be escrowed before closing out fiscal year.
 - Does it meet the federal bid threshold?
 - Is the vendor an approved sam.gov vendor?



MORE THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...



- **ESA and Categorical Balance Requirements –**
 - Waived for 2019/20
 - How do you plan to budget for additional funds due to balances?
- **20% Net Legal Fund Balance Requirement –**
 - Waived for 2019/20
 - How do you plan to end the year since the balance requirement has been waived?
- How will your future budgets be effected by additional technology purchases and replacement cycles of additional technology?



AND MORE THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...



- What does your staffing look like for 2020/21 with a blended learning environment?
- How much more do you anticipate budgeting/spending for start of school with new guidelines of sanitizing, spacing, technology, internet, etc?
- How are you planning to budget your local tax revenue in 20/21 and future years?



AND MORE THINGS TO THINK ABOUT...



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- Has your district surveyed staff, parents, stakeholders about returning to school in the fall?
- Are you anticipating changes in your enrollment? Homeschool numbers increasing?
- How are you planning to budget for subs?
- Will you have to hire additional custodial staff or nurses?



CARES ACT COMMISSIONER'S MEMOS

Memo #	Memo Title	Date Posted
<u>FIN-20-042</u>	CARES Funding Data	4/29/2020
<u>COM-20-119</u>	CARES Act – ESSER Funds Webinar – May 18, 2020	5/13/2020
<u>COM-20-120</u>	CARES Act - webpage, LEA application, and webinar	5/15/2020
<u>FIN-20-047</u>	2019-20 Preliminary CARES Allocations	5/15/2020
<u>FIN-20-054</u>	2019-20 Preliminary CARES Allocations with Equitable Services Set Aside	6/16/2020





QUESTIONS



CONTACT INFORMATION

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