

American Rescue Plan (ARP)
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III
<https://tea.texas.gov/finance-and-grants/grants/arp-esser-iii-grant-program>

Data shows that the COVID19 pandemic has had a significant impact on student learning, both across the country and within Bloomington ISD.

BISD is launching a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process to help determine how it should potentially spend additional federal dollars to address unfinished learning and COVID-19 recovery.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) signed into law in March 2021 by President Joe Biden included \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds for school districts across the country, which is the single largest investment in federal elementary and secondary education in the nation’s history. Bloomington ISD is applying to receive some of that additional funding.

All parents, district employees, students, and community members are urged to participate to help the district determine what to prioritize with the potential ESSER funds. School districts are limited as to what they can use ESSER funds to support.

****Please click [here](#) to answer the ARP ESSER III funds questionnaire!****

What is the purpose of the ARP ESSER III funds?

The purpose of ESSER in general is to award subgrants to local schools such as Bloomington ISD to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools.

How much funding is available to Bloomington ISD?

Total BISD Allocation: \$2,314,597

Initial Allocation to Bloomington ISD is $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total amount:
 $\frac{2}{3}$ of \$2,314,597 = **\$1,543,065**

Remaining Allocation to Bloomington ISD:
 $\frac{1}{3}$ of \$2,314,597 = **\$771,532**

Minimum of **20%** of Total Amount Must Be Spent on Addressing Learning Loss of Students Due to COVID19:
20% of \$2,314,597 = **\$462,919.40**

What is the funding period for ARP ESSER III funds?

Funds may be used for allowable activities from March 13, 2020 (with approved pre-award) through Sept. 30, 2023.

What are the federal requirements around the ARP ESSER III funds?

The public school must engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of its plan for the uses of ARP ESSER III funds.

The public school must provide its plan for the uses of ARP ESSER III funds in an understandable and uniform format.

The public school's plan for the uses of ARP ESSER III funds will be posted to their district website within 30 days of receiving its ESSER III Notice of Grant Award.

Are the ARP ESSER III funds required to be spent for specific purposes?

Yes, schools must expend a minimum of 20 percent of their grant funds on:

Evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning, extended day comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs; and

Ensure interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on student populations as defined in ESEA, Title I, Part A, students experiencing homelessness, and youth in foster care.

Are there recommended uses of ARP ESSER III funds that will assist schools in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and disruptions leading to learning loss?

While keeping in mind the purpose and requirements under ARP ESSER III related to accelerating student learning, TEA strongly encourages school systems to plan for how to use these one-time federal funds expeditiously over the entire covered period to facilitate a more comprehensive long-term approach to learning acceleration. This may include aligned strategies that are currently part of a district's current plans and strategies. A qualitative review of draft local learning acceleration plans revealed the following trends and suggestions, including but not limited to:

- Professional Development: comprehensive Reading Academies, high-quality instructional materials, dyslexia training, professional development stipends, technology integration training;
- Extended Instructional Time: extended day, extended year, high-dosage tutoring, summer learning;
- Staffing: tutors, reduced class sizes, small group instruction, staff retention and recruitment incentive pay, after school enrichment programs, instructional coaching and leadership;
- Facilities: ventilation, cleaning, HVAC systems, specialized instructional spaces;
- Technology: devices, infrastructure upgrades, learning management systems, digital tools, educational application;
- Mental Health and Behavioral Supports: social workers, at-risk coordinators, additional counseling services, teacher training and programming, wrap-around and community partnerships.

What are some of the allowable uses of the ARP ESSER III funds?

ARP ESSER III funds are designated to be used in any or all of 15 buckets, which include addressing learning loss, providing professional development, improving indoor air quality, providing social and emotional supports, updating and providing technology, and [others](#) listed here.