



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 24, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent
Finance and Operations KG

SUBJECT: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II Fund of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act - MEMO #COVID-19-162

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has been awarded \$1,656,308,286 by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) as part of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II Fund. The funding is part of the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260.

MDE will award 90 percent of the funds to eligible local school districts based on the 2020-21 Title I, Part A funding formula, as required by the federal consolidated appropriations act (CAA). ESSER II allocations to local school districts are posted on MDE's Office of Educational Supports website at:
https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-81376_51051-127227--,00.html

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has proposed supplemental recommendations for fiscal year 2021 for the school aid budget with supplemental request 2021-4 that appropriates Michigan's ESSER II Fund allocation. The state legislature must now authorize these ESSER II Fund dollars through an appropriations bill prior to MDE making these funds available to local school districts.

Local school districts must amend their previously approved ESSER formula grant application in MEGS+ and submit a new budget to receive funds. Detailed guidance will be forthcoming.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
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All 12 existing allowable use areas from ESSER I remain for ESSER II. These 12 areas and an additional three use areas in *italics* for ESSER II funds are below:

1. Any activity authorized by the ESEA of 1965, including the Native Hawaiian Education Act and the Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) ("IDEA"), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) ("the Perkins Act"), or subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.).
2. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
3. Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.
4. Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.
5. Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
6. Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
7. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.
8. Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including for how to provide meals to eligible students, how to provide technology for online learning to all students, how to provide guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all federal, state, and local requirements.
9. Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
10. Providing mental health services and supports.

11. Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.
12. *Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, by:*
 - a) *Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting student's academic needs, including through differentiating instruction.*
 - b) *Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.*
 - c) *Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment.*
 - d) *Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.*
13. *School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.*
14. *Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.*
15. Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and to continue to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

MDE encourages local school districts to begin planning for the effective use of ESSER II funds. These funds are a one-time appropriation for local school districts. MDE strongly recommends that local school districts reflect carefully about the best uses of these funds, particularly given the learning and social, emotional and mental health challenges that students have faced during the pandemic.

MDE will provide updates as additional information becomes available. ESSER II funds are federal funds and are subject to all the federal regulations, rules, and guidelines that apply to all federal grant awards. The details concerning the regulations and rules will be outlined in the grant assurances.

Please email any questions to MDECARES@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors