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Financial & Administrative Services*



COVID Relief Funds Update

April 14, 2021



Agenda



- Overview of Grants
- Missouri Student Connectivity
- Transportation Funds
- General Guidance
- ESSER Grants – Allowable Uses
- Applications & Fiscal Guidance
- Suggested Uses
- State Reserve Projects
- Q&A

Email questions live to Communications@dese.mo.gov

COVID Relief Funds Summary



Grant	LEA Allocations	Grant Purposes	Current Status
Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER I)	\$192,131,014	COVID Response	\$129,533,172.19 Distributed
Missouri Student Connectivity - Connections (ESSER I & GEER I)	\$20,399,380	Student Devices	\$7,140,729.34 Distributed
Transportation Supplement (GEER I)	\$15,258,661	Extra Transportation Costs	\$3,108,363.71 Distributed
Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II)	\$784,055,062	COVID Response	Guidance/Allocations Posted Awaiting Appropriation
Governor's Emergency Education Relief II (GEER II)	\$12,141,078	CTE Programs	Awaiting Appropriation
Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ESSER III)	\$1,760,876,294	COVID Response	Awaiting Appropriation



- Allocations for qualified LEAs
 - ❑ Loaded in ePeGS
 - ❑ Listed on DESE's COVID Relief webpage
 - ❑ ESSER/GEER funds
- Wi-Fi enabled devices
- Equitable services required (broader allowable use)
- Obligation: March 13, 2020 - September 30, 2021
- ePeGS (Budget, Payment Request, FER)

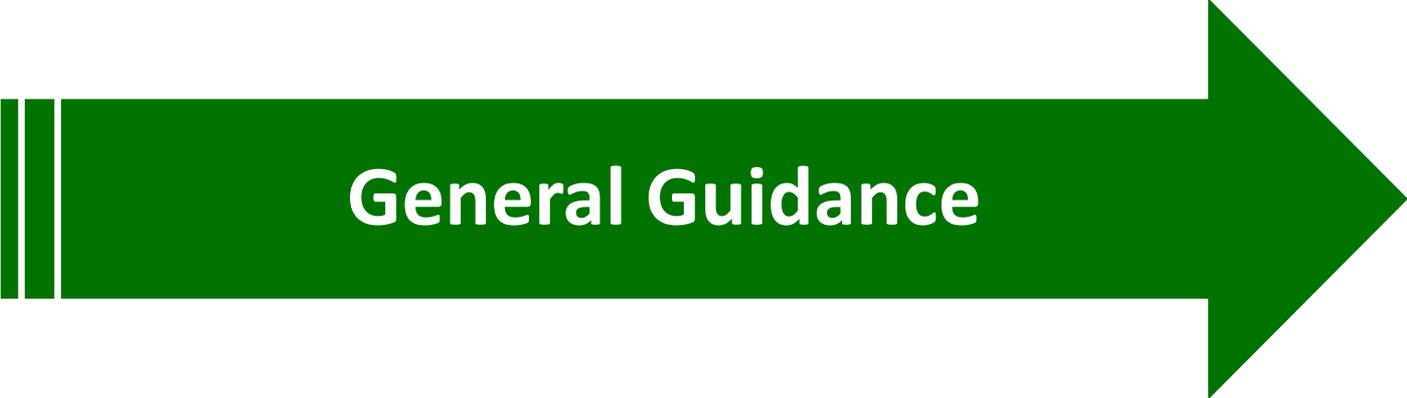


- Allocations based on FY20 transportation formula
 - ❑ Loaded in ePeGS
 - ❑ Posted on DESE's COVID Relief webpage
 - ❑ GEER funds
- Extraordinary transportation costs
- Equitable services required (any allowable use)
- Obligation: July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021
- ePeGS (Budget, Payment Request, FER)

Relief Funds for Transportation



- Summer school transportation and transportation to support supplemental instruction during the school year are allowable uses of ESSER and GEER funds.
- Expenses funded with relief funds should be coded to Function Code 2558 – Non-Allowable Transportation to avoid double-claiming.
- The miles associated with these costs should not be reported on the Application for State Transportation Aid.



General Guidance



- Will the proposed use of funds be related to preventing, preparing for and responding to COVID-19?
- Is it an allowable use of funds under CARES/CRRSA/ARP?
- Is it reasonable and necessary?
- Does it support a safe return to school?

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- Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)
- General Education Provision Act (GEPA)
- Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) - 2 CFR
- General Federal Guidance



- Recommend documenting how a specific use of funds was COVID-related
- Maintain detailed financial records for each grant for audit and fiscal monitoring purposes
- Follow board policy and federal guidance documents regarding procurement related to federal grants



ESSER Grants

ESSER Summary



	ESSER I	ESSER II	ESSER III
Authorization	CARES	CRRSA	ARP
LEA Allocations	\$192,131,014	\$784,055,062	\$1,760,876,294
Allowable Uses	12	15	14
Availability*	3/13/20 – 9/30/21	3/13/20 – 9/30/22	3/13/20 – 9/30/23
Equitable Services	Yes	No	No
Reservations	None	None	20% for Learning Loss & Safe Return Plan

*Tydings Amendment extends availability one year beyond listed date



- Title I allocation approach
- Reimbursement of expenses
- Supplement not supplant provisions not applicable
- Appropriation authority needed
 - ❑ ESSER II anticipated by May 2021
 - ❑ ESSER III anticipated by October 2021



1. Any activity authorized by ESEA, IDEA, AEFLA, Perkins or McKinney Vento;
2. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts to COVID-19;
3. Providing principals and other school leaders with resources to address individual school needs;
4. Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including outreach and service delivery;
5. Procedures and systems to improve LEA preparedness and response efforts;



6. Training and professional development for LEA staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious disease;
7. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean LEA facilities;
8. Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including how to provide the following: meals, technology for online learning, guidance for carrying out IDEA requirements, and educational services consistent with applicable requirements;



9. Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software and connectivity) for the LEA's students;
10. Providing mental health services and supports;
11. Planning and implementing summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs;
12. Other activities necessary to maintain LEA operations and services and employ existing LEA staff;



13. 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 education agency, including by –
 - (A) Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' 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 distanced learning environment; and
 - (D) Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.



14. 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; and
15. 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.

Unallowable Activities



1. Bonuses, merit pay or similar expenditures, unless related to disruptions or closures related to COVID-19;
2. Subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not LEA employees;
3. Expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations; and
4. Activities and or purchases religious in nature are not allowable with these funds.



- **LEAs must reserve at least 20% of funds to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and ensure that those interventions respond to students' social, emotional and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups** (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care).



- An LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds must, within 30 days of receiving the funds, make publicly available on its website a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Before making the plan publicly available, the LEA must seek public comment on the plan.

Note: awaiting further guidance, but plans in place for the 2020-21 school year will likely meet the requirement.



Applications & Fiscal Guidance



LEAs can login to [DESE Web Applications](#), select ePeGS, select Funding Application Menu, Quality Schools and the specific grant. LEAs will need to create a new budget application using the following steps*:

Step 1: Select Budget Application

Step 2: Click Create Budget Application

Step 3: Complete Budget Grid Page

Step 4: Complete Capital Outlay Page (if applicable)

Step 5: Review Budget Grid Page

Step 6: Complete Submittal and Approval Page

*Please note this is applicable to ESSER II/III, Student Connectivity, and Transportation Supplement

Grant Payment Steps



LEAs can login to [DESE Web Applications](#), select ePeGS, select Funding Application Menu, Quality Schools and the specific grant. LEAs will need to create a payment request/FER using the following steps* (requires an approved budget):

Step 1: Select Payment Request or FER

Step 2: Click Create Payment Request or FER

Step 3: Complete Payment Grid or FER Grid Page

Step 4: Review Payment Grid or FER Grid Page

Step 5: Complete Submittal and Approval Page

*Please note this is applicable to ESSER II/III, Student Connectivity, and Transportation Supplement



- Capital outlay using federal funds requires prior approval through the budget application process
- Individual cost \$1,000 or more per unit
- Federal and state procurement requirements apply (check board policy)

Stipend and Extra-Duty Pay



- Prior written documentation
- Extra work to be performed
- Date(s) of performance
- Amount or rate to be paid
- Time and effort

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- Allowable cost to the extent not covered by Foundation Formula and Prop C revenues
- Fully ESSER funded programs not claimable for ADA
- Transportation costs are allowable (GEER/ESSER)
- Summer school applications due by June 1
- Summer school handbook available at:

<https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/qs-si-2021-Summer-School-Handbook.pdf>

Revenue and Project Codes



Revenue Code	Description	Project Code
5424	CARES - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)	42400
5424	CARES Student Connectivity – ESSER	42403
5425	CARES Student Connectivity – GEER	42500
5425	CARES Transportation Supplement – GEER	42501
5423	CRRSA – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II)	42300
5422	ARP – Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III)	42200
5497	COVID Relief Funds received from entities other than DESE	Local project code

Note: All federal relief funds should be coded with Source Code 4, even those received from entities other than DESE.



- Expenditures should be recorded on the LEA's accounting ledgers with appropriate function, object, project and source codes.
- If expenditures from a previous fiscal year within the allowable timeframe are used to claim funds, the LEA accounting ledgers need to be updated to show those expenditures with the correct project and source code.
- ASBR should then be updated with the new information and resubmitted.



- Funds received should be directly recorded into the fund for which the qualifying expenditure is paid. (165.011, RSMo.)
 - Example: ESSER I funds claimed for a qualifying expenditure related to a teacher's salary paid out of the Teachers Fund should be recorded as revenue directly into the Teachers Fund upon receipt.



- Transfer of funds between the four Governmental Fund Types is governed by 165.011, RSMo.
- Governmental Fund Types
 - ❑ General Fund
 - ❑ Teachers Fund
 - ❑ Debt Service Fund
 - ❑ Capital Projects Fund
- There are no transfers to the Capital Projects Fund that are “unlimited.”



- Transfer maximums are outlined in statute and a transfer above that allowed by law is not allowed and a penalty in the amount of the over transfer shall be deducted from the LEA's state aid payment.
- Transfer descriptions can be found on the School Finance Topics and Procedures page under the "Transfers" guidance document.
- Maximum transfer amounts are posted on the School Finance Data and Reports webpage.



Suggested Uses



- Full-day programming – academic/enrichment
- Core hours for ELA/math
- Smaller class sizes
- No fees
- Free transportation
- Free meals

Note: ESSER funds provide a foundation for all LEAs to provide a significant summer learning experience



- Trained and experienced tutors
- Low student-tutor ratio (1-2:1)
- Frequent and regular contact
- Targeted at students' specific needs
- Assessment (pre- and post-) and progress monitoring
- Skill-building curriculum better than homework
- Possible expenses
 - ❑ Training
 - ❑ Instructional materials and assessments
 - ❑ Sanitation
 - ❑ Snacks, meals and transportation



- Resources for educators
 - ❑ Instructional resources (e.g., MO-LEAP Blocks)
 - ❑ Formative assessment tools
 - ❑ Library/media center materials
- Professional learning for educators
 - ❑ Sponsorship of tuition, registration, stipends and related expenses for DESE-approved professional learning
 - ❑ Revision of instructional resources for cultural responsiveness
 - ❑ Alignment of instructional resources for grade-appropriateness
 - ❑ Alignment of instructional resources to Missouri Learning Standards (MLS) priority standards



- Students
 - ❑ Intensive small-group instructional interventions
 - ❑ Extended instructional time
 - ❑ High-quality summer school programming
 - ❑ After-school programming
 - ❑ Advanced and career credit
 - Dual credit/dual enrollment courses
 - Advanced Placement[®] testing
 - Industry Recognized Credential testing
 - ACT, ACT Workkeys[®] or SAT[®]



- Mental health professionals
- Administrative assistant for school mental health professionals
- School staff participation in a youth mental health first aid course
- Mental health screenings
- Mental health apps for students and faculty



- Develop a multi-year plan
- Be flexible – expect additional federal guidance
- Be transparent with stakeholders on use of funds
- Expect public scrutiny on the use of funds
- Consider a wide range of allowable uses
- Document, document, document

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State Reserve Considerations



- ARP 5% reserve for evidence-based interventions to address learning loss
- ARP 1% reserve for evidence-based summer enrichment programs
- ARP 1% reserve for evidence-based comprehensive afterschool programs
- Next Generation Assessment Tools
- Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grants
- Broadband Access and Affordability

Questions?

Email questions live to Communications@dese.mo.gov





Additional Information Available at the DESE Website:

COVID Relief Information