

# Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief II



## Background

On Dec. 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) was signed into law, providing an additional \$82 billion in funding for the national Education Stabilization Fund (ESF). The ESF funding provides support for K-12 schools with a total of \$54.3 billion added to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund (called ESSER II) and \$4.05 billion for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund called GEER II.

Under CRSSA, Colorado has been allocated \$519,324,311 to the ESSER II fund and \$47,865,504 to the GEER II fund.

## ESSER II Fund Distribution

ESSER II funds will be distributed according to the same process as the March 2020 ESSER I funds with 90% flowing to local education agencies based on their Title I formula and 10% reserved for state-level activities. Similar to ESSER I dollars, only 0.5% of the total state award may be used for administration activities. States are instructed to use all remaining ESSER funds before making use of the ESSER II funds, given the shorter remaining period of availability (see Timing section below).

Under ESSER II, Colorado has been allocated \$519,324,311 with at least \$467,391,880 for direct distribution to districts and no more than \$51,932,431 for state-level activities. Preliminary district allocations are available at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/caresact/esseriipreliminaryallocations>.

Although the ESSER II uses of funds are similar to those for ESSER, there are important distinctions between the ESSER I and ESSER II programs, including the period the funds are available, equitable services to non-public schools, maintenance of effort, and a report on efforts to measure and address learning loss.

ESSER II allowable uses include:

- Any allowable activity under ESEA, IDEA, Adult Education, Perkins CTE
- Coordination of COVID preparedness and response, numerous specific COVID response activities
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local education agencies
- Addressing learning loss, including through assessment, evidence-based activities, parent engagement, tracking attendance, and improving student engagement
- 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; improve indoor air quality

## Timing

The U.S. Department of Education awarded ESSER II funds to CDE on Jan. 5, 2021, and funds may be used until Sept. 30, 2023, whereas, ESSER I funds must be used by Sept. 30, 2022.

## **Equitable Services for Non-public Schools**

Under the new act, there is no equitable services requirement for ESSER II funds. However, under GEER II, \$2.75 billion has been allocated for emergency assistance to non-public schools nationally through a new Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) program to be administered by state education agencies (SEAs). Under EANS Colorado has been allocated \$28,433,931. Non-public schools can apply for EANS funds for “secular, neutral, and non-ideological” services and assistance, including sanitization, personal protective equipment, COVID testing, educational technology, and connectivity. SEAs are required to prioritize services or assistance to nonpublic schools that enroll low-income students and are most impacted by the qualifying emergency. Under this provision, SEA may only reserve the lesser of \$200,000 or 0.5% for administration.