

ADE Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund
(ARP - ESSER)

- The purpose of the ARP ESSER funding is to assist state education agencies and local school districts to safely reopen and sustain safe operations of schools and to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students.
- Arkansas will receive \$1.27 billion. 90% of funds go to local districts.
 - To date, US Dept. of Education has made \$835 million available to Arkansas
 - Of the \$835 million available, ADE is seeking appropriation for \$2 million for FY21 and \$500 million for FY22
 - ADE will seek additional appropriation periodically to meet state and district needs
- Requirements for local districts:
 - Funds can be used for continuity of operations, including budgetary shortfalls due to ADM decreases resulting from Covid-19. Because of this provision, districts dropped the pursuit of SB142 for "hold harmless".
 - Must dedicate at least 20% of funds to address the impact of lost instructional time or loss of learning.
 - Must be *reasonable and necessary* expense for preventing spread of or responding to Covid-19
 - Must develop a local ARP ESSER plan.
 - Meaningful engagement with stakeholders
 - Publish the Continuity of Service plan on the district's website
 - Must be tailored to meet the specific needs faced by students and schools within the district.
- Timeline

State Plan submitted to US Department of Education by June 7, 2021 - **Complete**
US Department of Education requires allocations to LEAs by May 24, 2021 - **Extension requested**

State and LEAs must obligate funds by September 30, 2024

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| Part A: LEA Plan for Continuity of Services | April 15, 2021 (posted on district website and updated every six months) |
| Part B: LEA Signed Assurances | June 24, 2021 (attached) |
| Part C: LEA plan for Use of ARP ESSER Funds | August 15, 2021 (attached) |
- ADE is required to monitor expenses, but is not allowed to restrict district expenditures within the **allowable expense categories**
- The American Rescue Plan prescribes in broad categories how the state must use its 10% allocation
 - 5% - Carry out activities to address the academic impact of lost instructional time
 - Extend SmartData Dashboard for two additional years
 - Expansion of Professional Learning Communities and Inclusive Practices Pilot
 - Arkansas Tutoring Corp
 - Arkansas PBS Summer Programming
 - Accepting proposals for other evidence-based programs and interventions that meet requirements
 - 1% - Implementation of evidence-based summer programs
 - Partnership with Arkansas Out of School Network
 - 1% - Implementation of evidence-based comprehensive after school programs
 - Partnership with Arkansas Out of School Network
 - 3% - Needs determined by SEA
 - Emergency needs
 - Response to continuing stakeholder feedback