



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
**Department of Finance  
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August 10, 2022

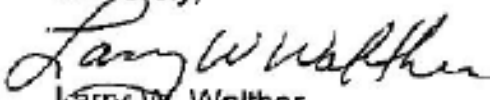
Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair  
Representative Michelle Gray, Co-Chair  
Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee  
Arkansas Legislative Council  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: FY 23 American Rescue Plan Act Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Section 37 (01) of Act 199 of 2022, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

- Department of Education – Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
– Help mitigate spread of COVID-19 at schools and continue district services  
and operations \$241,989,174

Sincerely,  
  
Larry W. Walther  
Cabinet Secretary

LWW  
Attachment(s)

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION  
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST  
SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022**

Agency: ADE - DESE Business Area Code: 0500  
 Program Title: American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ARP - ESSER)  
 Granting Organization: USDE CFDA #: 84.425U  
 Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 7/1/2022 Ending: 6/30/2023

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):  
 Funds are provided to State educational agencies and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Nation's students.

**American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding**

Func. Area: EDUC Fund Code: FRP5000 Direct Funding:  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Funds Center: E65 Internal Order/WBS Element: \_\_\_\_\_ Steering Comm. Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Continuation: \_\_\_\_\_

|                              | Program Funding Amount |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Regular Salaries             |                        |
| Extra Help                   |                        |
| Personal Services Matching   |                        |
| Operating Expenses           |                        |
| Conference & Travel Expenses |                        |
| Professional Fees            |                        |
| Capital Outlay               |                        |
| Data Processing              |                        |
| Grants and Aid (CI: 04)      |                        |
| Other: ARP Grant             | 145,235,243            |
| Other: ARP Grant             | 96,753,931             |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>\$ 241,989,174</b>  |

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 9/30/23

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|--|--|
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**DFA IGS State Technology Planning Date**  
 Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DFA IGS State Technology Planning.

**Positions to be established: (list each position separately)**

\* unclassified positions only

| Org Unit | Pers Area | Pers SubArea | Cost Center | Position Number | Comnt Item | Position Title | Class Code | Grade | Line Item Maximum * |
|----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|------------|-------|---------------------|
|          |           |              |             |                 |            |                |            |       |                     |

**State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.**

Approved by:  8/10/22 Robert Brech, 8/10/22  
 Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date Office of Budget Date Office of Personnel Mgmt Date

Funds were distributed to states in three separate packages, at different times, with different purposes.

1. CARES (**ESSER 1**)-**Relief**
2. Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (**ESSER II**)-**Recovery**
3. American Recovery Plan (**ARP ESSER**)-**Sustain and Maximize Opportunities for In-Person Learning/ Emerging Stronger after the Pandemic**

ARP ESSER funding required states to create a plan for how funds will be used and contained specific provisions for states to use funding to address learning loss. The requirements apply to the State Education Agency and Local Education Agencies. The state plan can be accessed here:

[https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/Arkansas\\_ARP\\_State\\_Plan\\_6.30.2021\\_20210707150328.pdf](https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/Arkansas_ARP_State_Plan_6.30.2021_20210707150328.pdf)

DESE is continuing to seek feedback from stakeholders through a partnership with Forward Arkansas. Forward is currently conducting a follow-up State of Education study that includes a review of progress since the 2015 State of Education report, the impact of COVID 19 on Arkansas education, and recommendations for future priorities. Forward is currently conducting stakeholder feedback sessions, interviews, and focus groups, statewide.

The American Rescue Plan prescribes in broad categories how the state must use its 10% allocation. The broad categories are linked [here](#):

- 5% - Carry out activities to address the academic impact of lost instructional time
- 1% - Implementation of evidenced-based summer programs
- 1% - Implementation of evidence-based comprehensive after school programs
- 3% - Emergency needs and Response to continuing stakeholder feedback

ADE is required to monitor expenses but is not allowed to restrict district expenditures within the **allowable expense categories**. State and LEAs must obligate funds by September 30, 2024. To date, DESE has obligated \$96,753,930.53 of the state set aside funding for projects.

ARP ESSER State Projects meet one or more of the above criteria and are supporting:

1. **Access to Learning**
  - a. Digital tools and curriculum with associated professional development
    - i. Pre-K; K-12; CTE. Curriculum and learning management systems,
  - b. Effective use of High-Quality Instructional Materials through the AIIM project supporting K12 and higher education
  - c. Rise and Shine summer programming to support summer learning
  - d. Technology infrastructure support for service cooperatives

**2. Investments in Teachers**

- a. Teaching Academies at no cost to participants
  - i. Career advancement opportunity
  - ii. Accelerated completion with graduate credit opportunities
- b. PLC Inclusive Practices Project and Regional Network to address the academic development of each student, skill-by-skill
- c. Save 10 (Financial Literacy support for educators)
- d. Automated system for processing background check child maltreatment requirement and shortened timelines for completing process for school personnel and substitutes

**3. Direct Support for Students**

- a. Tutoring Corps
- b. Summer School, After School, Extended Year Learning Opportunities with the support of the Arkansas Out of School Network
- c. Funding provided for additional CTE startup programs in an additional 25 schools for the upcoming school year
- d. MLK Commission support for schools

**4. Literacy**

- a. Curriculum and professional development for early childhood (pre-K) to support science of reading
- b. Network of Certified Academic Language Therapists to expand support for Dyslexia intervention

**5. Student and Staff Well-Being**

- a. Data tools
  - i. Smart Data Dashboard to assist schools with identification of At-Risk students and targeted intervention support
- b. Training for school leaders to address mental/behavioral support
  - i. THRIVE Arkansas- developing Multi-Tier Systems of Support
- c. Embedded employee support at the Arkansas Department of Health to provide a direct line of communication to school Points of Contact to disseminate information and to respond to local situations.