

Facts on ARP ESSER FUNDING

What is the American Rescue Plan?

Like the CAREs Act, the American Rescue Plan is the Biden Administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan provides sectors of the private and public economy with an influx of dollars to help stabilize the economy, provide protections for families and those who were most significantly impacted by the pandemic, as well as provide measures to improve safe working conditions in private and public sectors.

How does the American Rescue Plan help students and educators?

The American Rescue Plan has provided the largest one-time investment in education in the history of the United States. The Biden administration has provided \$81 billion for education across the United States. These dollars are meant to address a variety of issues presented by COVID-19 for our students and educators, including but not limited to learning loss, mental health services, and providing students and educators with a safe and healthy work/learning environment.

What does this mean for the state of Wyoming and districts in Wyoming?

The state of Wyoming in total has received \$303 million for education in ARP ESSER dollars. \$30 million of which will go to the Wyoming Department of Education, and the remainder, \$273 million, will be allocated to school districts based on a Title I formula.

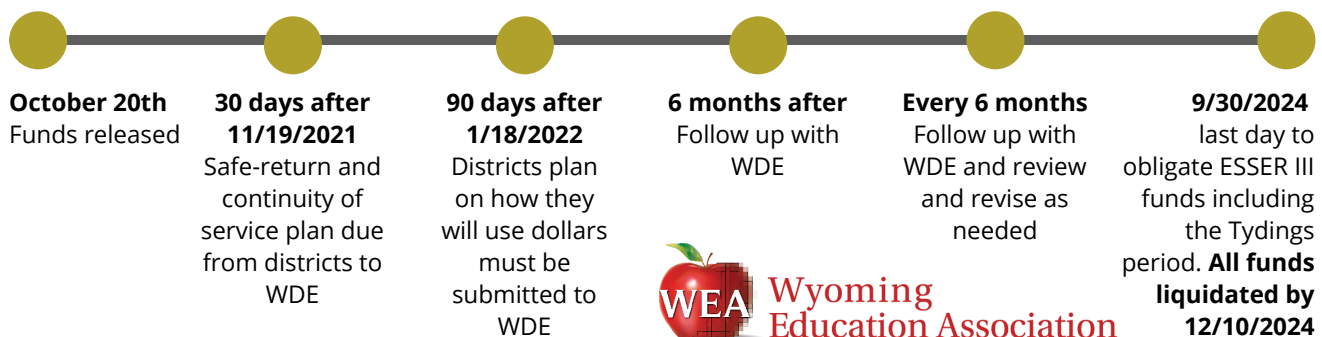
What are permitted uses for ARP ESSER Funds?

Districts have great latitude in determining how to use these funds (refer to the back of this handout for a breakdown of allowable fund uses). 20% of these dollars must be utilized to help our most in-need students, such as our low-income, at-risk, and minority students, through after-school programs, summer programs, and others to help address learning loss as well as the increase in mental health issues. The rest of the funds are discretionary.

How can educators and staff give input on how these dollars are used?

Currently, WEA is developing local capacity so that each district can have WEA members and non-member voices brought to the table. Districts are required by federal law to engage in "meaningful consultation" with educators, staff, and WEA.

What is the timeline for funds allocation?



Federal Emergency Aid for Public Education: A Checklist of Fund Uses under ESSER*

<input type="checkbox"/>	EMPLOYING EXISTING OR HIRING NEW STAFF	continue to pay school employees increase staffing for small group learning hire additional specialized instructional support personnel, and janitorial staff
<input type="checkbox"/>	COVID OPPORTUNITY GAPS	implement extended day or school year programs address students' academic, social, and emotional needs target students most impacted by the pandemic
<input type="checkbox"/>	SUMMER SCHOOL & AFTERSHOOL PROGRAMS	implement summer learning or summer enrichment programs and supplemental afterschool programs target students most impacted by the pandemic
<input type="checkbox"/>	UNIQUE NEEDS OF STUDENTS	address needs of students from low-income families students with disabilities English learners racial and ethnic minorities students experiencing homelessness foster care youth
<input type="checkbox"/>	MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES & SUPPORTS	strategies to meet the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students most impacted by the pandemic implement full-service community schools
<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTIVITIES UNDER ESEA, IDEA, CTEA, & AEFLA	scale-up or extend successful strategies under existing activities sustain and support access to early childhood education engage families and community members
<input type="checkbox"/>	PURCHASING EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY	provide devices, software applications, and connectivity for students and educators to close the homework gap professional development for educators on effective uses
<input type="checkbox"/>	LONG-TERM CLOSURES	ensure meals to eligible students provide technology for online learning for all students carry out services required under IDEA
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE	implement procedures to safely return to in-person instruction maximize in-person instruction time advance equity and inclusivity in participation in in-person instruction
<input type="checkbox"/>	COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS	partner with local health officials to provide necessary testing to students and families, as appropriate, and in compliance with applicable privacy laws
<input type="checkbox"/>	PUBLIC HEALTH PROTOCOLS	implement CDC's operational strategy for in-person learning sustain the safe operation of schools through COVID-19 mitigation strategies
<input type="checkbox"/>	CLEANING SUPPLIES & PPE	provide supplies to clean and disinfect school facilities ensure all students and staff have personal protective equipment (PPE)
<input type="checkbox"/>	STAFF TRAINING ON CLEANING & PREVENTION	provide training and professional development for staff on cleaning and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases
<input type="checkbox"/>	INDOOR AIR QUALITY IN SCHOOL FACILITIES	improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems; filtering, purification and other air cleaning; and fans
<input type="checkbox"/>	SCHOOL FACILITY REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS	facility repairs and improvements to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards additional space to ensure social distancing in classrooms
<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER ACTIVITIES AS NEEDED	other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in LEAs

*Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. Applies to ESSER I, ESSER II, and ARP ESSER. All allowable fund uses added to subsequent federal emergency aid laws are also allowable under the preceding laws. For example, ESSER I funds under the CARES Act may be used for the same allowable purposes as ESSER II and ARP ESSER.