



Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

Achieve! Extended Office Hours
April 27, 2021

Questions?



Throughout this call we will be collecting questions submitted through the chat and will respond to as many as possible towards the end of the slides presented. Any questions not addressed today will be documented and addressed in the [Achieve! FAQ](#) document or a team member from the agency will reach out.

We encourage you to submit all questions to LDOE.grantshelpddesk@la.gov. Please include the word “Achieve!” in the subject line.



Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

Grant Fund	<u>ESSER I</u>	<u>ESSER II</u>	<u>ESSER III</u>
<p>Notable Differences</p>	<p>LEAs are required to provide equitable services to nonpublic schools.</p>	<p>LEAs are <i>not</i> required to provide equitable services to nonpublic schools.</p> <p>New allowable costs, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● risk-mitigating facility repairs and improvements ● air quality improvements to school buildings ● reporting on efforts to measure and address learning loss for students disproportionately affected by coronavirus and school closures, particularly high-need students 	<p>LEA must reserve at least 20 percent of funds to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.</p> <p>Within 30 days of receiving funds, LEAs must seek public comment on plans for safe return to in-person instruction and post on website.</p> <p>New maintenance of equity requirement to ensure that state and district leaders do not ask students from low-income backgrounds or underrepresented student groups to shoulder a disproportionate share of cuts in state and local education spending.</p>

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

Grant Fund	<u>ESSER I</u>	<u>ESSER II</u>	<u>ESSER III</u>
Stimulus Program	<u>CARES Act</u> (March 2020)	<u>CRRSA</u> (December 2020)	<u>ARPA</u> (March 2021)
Main purpose of funds	Ensure students and educators have the device, connectivity, and support needed to continue learning virtually. Provide communication and support to families and students for continuous learning.	Measure and address learning loss among students disproportionately affected by the coronavirus and school closures, particularly students with high-needs.	Reopen schools and sustain their safe operation aligned to CDC prevention guidance, so students can return to in-person learning. Provide evidence-based interventions to meet social, emotional, and academic needs of students.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

Grant Fund	<u>ESSER I</u>	<u>ESSER II</u>	<u>ESSER III</u>
Total ESSER Allocation	\$13.2 billion	\$54.3 billion	\$122 billion
LDOE Total Award Amount	\$286,980,175	\$1,160,119,378	\$2,605,463,325
Minimum LEA Allocation	\$258,282,158	\$ 1,044,107,100	\$2,344,916,922
Available for Obligation*	9/30/2022	9/30/2023	9/30/2024
LDOE Application			

ESSER III Allocation Methodology and Breakdown

SEAs must distribute a minimum of **90% of their total allocation to LEAs**. Like ESSER II, LDOE will use the same [funding methodology](#) to calculate estimated LEA allocations based on 2020-2021 LEA shares of Title I, Part A allocations. Of the LEAs total allocation, **20% reservation is required to provide evidence-based interventions**.

- **Louisiana's Total ESSERF III allocation - \$2,605,462,325**
 - State-level reservation (10%) - \$247,518,086
 - Allocation to LEAs (90%) - \$2,344,916,922
 - Evidence-based interventions (20%) - \$468,983,384

ESSER II and III Allocations

LDOE will release estimated ESSER II and III allocations to school systems in two action periods in order to:

- meet federal requirements for awarding funds to LEAs*,
- support strategic and coordinated response efforts through 2024,
- ensure school systems are spending down their ESSER I funds *first*, and
- help school systems meet the 20% requirement of ESSER III.

	ESSER I Funds		ESSER II Funds		ESSER III Funds	
	Formula	Incentive	Formula <i>Action 1 (50%)</i>	Formula <i>Action 2 (50%)</i>	Formula EB <i>Action 1 (20%)</i>	Formula <i>Action 2 (80%)</i>
Released in eGMS	April 2020	June 2020	March 2021	January 2022	March 2021	TBD
Obligation Period	September 30, 2022		September 30, 2023		September 30, 2024	

*SEAs must award ESSER II funds within one year of receiving them, which will be January 2022.

SEAs must award ESSER III funds in an expedited and timely manner and, to the extent practicable, not later than 60 days after the SEA receives those funds. An SEA must award ARP ESSER funds not allocated to LEAs within one year of the date the SEA receives those funds.

Achieve! Planning Guidance

The Department developed [Achieve! Planning Guidance](#) to support school systems as they begin planning for the development of *Achieve!* budgets using ESSER II and ESSER III formula funds. There are new, updated, and previously released high-impact initiatives aligned to each priority and corresponding focus areas.

In planning, school systems will:

- Commit to priorities within the [Believe to Achieve Educational Priorities](#) and initiatives
- Identify stakeholders to be a part of the *Achieve!* planning team
- Use three key resources while planning: [ESSER II and ESSER III Allowabilities](#), *Achieve!* Planning Guidance, and EIC codes

Additionally, LDOE created [ESSER Allowability Examples](#) and [Allowability Crosswalk](#) to support planning.

Priorities-Based Strategic Planning

It is important to remember that these are **one-time funds** that must be used to **prepare for, prevent, and respond to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic**.

School systems should **consider multi-year budgets** in alignment with the priorities and focus areas outlined in [*Believe to Achieve: Louisiana's Educational Priorities*](#), mapping out how they will **support their schools in meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of their students through the fall of 2024**.

Strong Start	ESSER I	April 2020	September 2022
Achieve!	ESSER II	January 2021	September 2023
Achieve!	ESSER III	March 2021	September 2024

Achieve! Application Timeline and Support

Timeline	Action
March, 2021	Release 50% of ESSER II and 20% of ESSER III EB formula allocations to LEAs with guidance
April, 2021	LEAs use the guidance and assess needs to build out budgets in Achieve!
May 3, 2021	Achieve! budget applications are due in eGMS.
May, 2021	LDOE reviews Achieve! budgets
June 1, 2021	UPDATE: Initial reviews and feedback provided on all Achieve! budgets by June 1.

Please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Strategic Planning and Budgeting

Planning:

School Systems should **use the full estimated allocation amounts to develop multi-year plans** that include high-impact initiatives in alignment with the allowabilities and priorities.

Budgeting:

School Systems will **submit budgets April 30 for the amount loaded into eGMS**, which is 50% of ESSER II and 20% of ESSER III formula funds.

Remaining funds from FY21 will automatically carryforward in eGMS to FY22 on July 1, 2021.

As school systems develop and revise plans, they will be able to make budget revisions throughout the life of the grant. **Once additional funds are allocated and loaded into eGMS, school systems will amend their budgets to include those amounts.**

Please contact LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov with questions.

Pre-Approval Process

The Department is implementing a new process for school systems seeking pre-approval for equipment and capital expenditures.

The following types of expenditures would require use of the pre-approval process (Rules 1 & 3):

1. General equipment purchases (van, bus, etc.,)
2. Land purchases
3. Building purchases
4. Improvement to general equipment, land, and/or building that increase the value or use life

The following rules of allowability must apply to equipment and other capital expenditures in accordance with Edgar 200.439:

1. Capital expenditures for general purpose equipment, buildings, and land are unallowable as direct charges, except with the prior written approval of the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.
2. Capital expenditures for special purpose equipment are allowable as direct costs, provided that items with a unit cost of \$5,000 or more have the prior written approval of the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.
3. Capital expenditures for improvements to land, buildings, or equipment that materially increase their value or useful life are unallowable as a direct cost except with the prior written approval of the pass-through entity (LDOE).

Note: The eGMS application approval serves as pre-approval for special purpose equipment (servers, smartboards, body scan thermometers, etc.) Rule 2

To submit a pre-approval request for equipment/capital expenditures please complete and submit the [Pre-Approval for Equipment/Capital Expenditures Form](#). The equipment/capital expenditure pre-approval form can also be accessed via the [FSGR Library](#). Once received, LDOE staff will review the request and provide either an approval or denial response to the request.

Construction Expenses

States received guidance on how to determine what's reasonable and necessary for construction cost. Below are few guiding questions school systems should consider when contemplating construction expenses:

- How does the cost compare to other options (i.e. leasing)?
- What are some actual pricing protocols (i.e. market rates, material cost, bidding protocols, etc.)?
- Does this cost align to a response to COVID?
- Will the cost be incurred during the budget period of the funds? For example can the school system complete the project before September 2023/2024?

Additional Planning Resources and Guidance

ESSER II Resources released by ED	ESSER III Resources released by ED *
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cover Letter to Commissioners● ESSER II Methodology and Allocation Table● ESSER II Fact Sheet● ESSER II Use of Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Letter to Chief State School Officers● ARP ESSER Methodology and Allocation Table● ARP ESSER Fact Sheet● ESSER III Funding Press Release

**We are still awaiting ED's release of an updated FAQ.*

Please refer to the [Achieve! FAQ](#) for answers to frequently asked questions. For questions *not* included in the FAQ, please contact the Grants Help Desk at LDOE.GrantsHelpdesk@la.gov. The Department will continue to provide updates to school systems as new information becomes available. Please look for this information in the newsletter, Monthly System Leader Call, and Monthly Federal Support and Grantee Relations Call.



**Achieve! Extended Office Hours
Questions and Answers**