

Congress released the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 \(CAA\)](#) on December 21, 2020. This legislation includes COVID-19 relief specifying [appropriations provisions](#) to governors, state and local educational agencies (LEAs), and higher education institutions.

**Louisiana’s Birth to 12th Grade Education Stabilization Funds Summary**

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF II)- **\$1,160,119,378**
- Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF II) - **\$22,985,320**
- Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS) - **\$55,566,230**
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) - **\$198,319,710**

**ESSER II Funds**

Louisiana’s ESSER I allocation was \$286 million, and ESSER II allocation is \$1.16 billion; approximately four times the amount received last year. Although the ESSER II uses of funds are similar to those for ESSER, there are important distinctions, including:

- period of funds availability
- equitable services to nonpublic schools
- new allowable costs such as:
  - 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

Louisiana Allocation Period of Availability		
Grant Fund	LDOE Total Award Amount	Period of Availability
ESSER (March 2020)	\$286,980,175	4/29/20* - 9/30/22
ESSER II (Jan 2021)	\$1,160,119,378	1/5/21* - 9/30/2023

\*Pre-award costs are allowable for expenses incurred from March 13, 2020

**Allocation Methodology**

LDOE will use this same [funding methodology](#) to calculate estimated LEA allocations based on 2020 LEA shares of Title I, Part A allocations. **SEAs must distribute a minimum of 90% of their total allocation to LEAs.**

**LDOE is going to release allocations to school systems in two action periods to support strategic and coordinated response efforts.** This will also ensure school systems are spending down their ESSER I funds first and have time to adequately plan for the new funding. To help school systems begin the planning process, the Department will release **estimated ESSERF II Formula allocations to school systems in February.**

Example LEA	Estimated allocation	Action 1 (50%) March, 2021	Action 2 (50%) January, 2022
	\$500,000	\$250,000	\$250,000



### LEAs ESSER II and III Timelines

To support school systems in using this money in a strategic, priorities-based manner, LDOE will release a guidance document with evidenced-based best practices.

Timeline	Action
March, 2021	Release 50% of ESSER II and 20% of ESSER III formula allocations to LEAs with guidance
April, 2021	LEAs use the guidance and assess needs to build out budgets in <i>Achieve!</i>
<b>April 30, 2021</b>	<b><i>Achieve!</i> budget applications are due in eGMS.</b>
May, 2021	LDOE reviews <i>Achieve!</i> budgets
<b>June 1, 2021</b>	<b><i>Achieve!</i> budgets approved (LEAs may start drawing down funds)</b>
TBD	Release 80% of ESSER III formula allocations to LEAs with updated guidance
January, 2022	Release 50% of remaining ESSER II formula allocations to LEAs with updated guidance

### ED Resources

- [CRRSA Cover Letter to Commissioners](#)
- [CRRSA ESSER II Methodology and Allocation Table](#)
- [CRRSA ESSER II Fact Sheet](#)
- [CRRSA ESSER II Use of Funds](#)

### ESSER II Funds Allowability

Funds may be used on a wide variety of activities as identified under the [CAA](#).

1. Any activity authorized by the ESEA of 1965, IDEA, AEFLA, Perkins, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
2. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts.
3. Providing principals and other school leaders with resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.
4. Activities to address the unique needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities.
5. Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs.
6. Training and professional development for LEA staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
7. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a LEA, including buildings operated by such agencies.
8. Planning, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures.
9. Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the LEA that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
10. Providing mental health services and supports.
11. Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after school programs.
12. Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including:
  - a. Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including differentiating instruction.
  - b. Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.



- c. Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment.
  - d. Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.
13. School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
  14. Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities.
  15. Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation and continuity of services in LEAs and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA. Any entity that receives funds under the Education Stabilization Fund shall, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to COVID-19.

*As always, 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. Please contact [LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov](mailto:LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov) with questions.*

