

# American Rescue Plan Grant

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Bernards Township Board of Education Meeting, 11-22-21

## ESSER Defined

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund was established by law in March 2020 with the overall purpose of providing school districts, or Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to **prevent, prepare for, or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic**, including its impact on the *social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students*.

\* American Rescue Plan ESSER Fund State Level Grants to LEAs  
NJDOE, Fall 2021

# ESSER Grants

- ESSER I: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES ACT)
- ESSER II: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act)
- ESSER III: American Rescue Plan Act (ARP Act)

# Grant Status

- The Bernards Township allocations for the ESSER I (\$265,696) and ESSER II (\$1,000,565) grants have been almost fully expended for items including Chromebooks, sanitation improvements and air quality improvements.
- The ESSER III allocation is multi-faceted and includes five parts:

ARP ESSER	American Rescue Plan - ESSER	\$2,248,706
Accelerated Learning Coach and Educator Support	American Rescue Plan - ESSER	\$382,512
Evidence Based Summer Learning and Enrichment	American Rescue Plan - ESSER	\$40,000
Evidence Based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day	American Rescue Plan - ESSER	\$40,000
NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing	American Rescue Plan - ESSER	\$45,000

# Part 1: ARP ESSER, Allowable Uses

## How Can LEAs Use the Funds to Respond to COVID-19

Anything authorized by ESSA, IDEA, AEFLA, Perkins, and McKinney-Vento

Coordination of COVID preparedness and response efforts

Activities for low-income, SWD, EL, racial and ethnic minorities, homeless, and foster

Developing and implementing procedures and systems

Training and PD on minimizing spread of infectious diseases

Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean

Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities, incl. meals

Technology for students and staff

Mental health services and supports

Summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs

Providing principals with resources necessary to address individual needs of schools

Implementing public health protocols

Addressing learning loss (assessments, evidence-based activities, parents, attendance)

School facility repairs to reduce risk of virus transmission

Air quality improvements

Other activities that are necessary to maintain operation and keep staff employed

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## Part 1: ARP ESSER, Anticipated Uses

- HVAC Equipment Upgrades, Air Filtration, Maintenance of HVAC, Updating BAS, Facility Accessibility Improvements
- Technology Supplies
- Outdoor Seating
- Additional Nursing Services
- Mental Health Services
- SE/ELL/Tier 2 Services

# Part 2: Accelerated Learning Coach and Educator Support, Allowable Uses

Professional development for staff that focuses on:

- SEL well being for students, families and educators
- Improving equitable access to learning for all students
- Prioritizing depth of instruction rather than pace
- Identifying and addressing gaps

## Part 2: Accelerated Learning Coach and Educator Support, Anticipated Uses

- PD that Supports SEL(CASEL) education and implementation, school climate and culture
- PD Supporting I&RS, Multi Tiered Systems of Support, RTI
- Professional Development (PD) on being culturally responsive and trauma sensitive
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Staff College
- Stipends for SEL programs such as Ridge's BREW, Teacher Leaders
- Substitute teacher budget to allow for pull-out training
- Increasing equitable access to instructional technology for ELL and SE
- Quality assessment tools and/or software to analyze and warehouse data



# Parts 3 & 4 Evidence Based Summer Learning and Enrichment, and Evidence Based Beyond School Day Grants

Allowable Uses: After school and summer learning, tutoring, homework support, resocialization activities, project based and experiential activities

Anticipated Uses: Quarantine tutors, summer programs

# Part 5: New Jersey Tiered System of Support Mental Health Support Staffing Grant

**Allowable Uses:** Staff to provide Tier 2 or Tier 3 mental health supports or provide staff with professional development in the effective implementation of Tier 2 or Tier 3 supports.

**Anticipated Uses:** Expand Effective School Solutions services to the middle school.

# Final Notes

- ESSER Grants are one time funds, careful planning and consideration needs to be given to areas where funds support long-term programs.
- ARP ESSER III Funds may be utilized through September of 2024.
- Amendments to grants plans may occur after the initial grant submission and during the grant period.
- Comments and questions regarding the ARP ESSER III grants may be directed to [ARP@bernardsboe.com](mailto:ARP@bernardsboe.com)