Afterschool Alliance

Timeline of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER)

2020

March 27, 2020
ESSER I – CARES passed (legislation, summary); Award amounts and initial reports; CARES Spending Map

Spring 2020
ESSER I funds released to states

December 27, 2020
ESSER II – CRRSA passed (legislation, summary); Allocation

2021

January 5, 2021
ESSER II Funds released to states

February 12, 2021
ED COVID-19 Handbook 1 released: Strategies for Safely Reopening Elementary and Secondary Schools. Updated in April 2021.

March 11, 2021
ESSER III – ARP passed (legislation, summary); Allocation

March 19, 2021
Updates to CDC Guidance on Reopening Schools

March 24, 2021
ESSER III Funds (2/3 of total - $81 billion) released to states; Allocation

March 29, 2021
ED webinar w/Deputy Asst Sec. of Education Jessica Cardichon: Addressing the Impact of Covid-19 though Summer Learning and Enrichment

April 9, 2021
ED COVID-19 Handbook 2 released: Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs

April 22, 2021
Interim Final Requirements take effect for ESSER III funds

April 24, 2021
Updated CDC Summer Camps Guidance

Spring 2021
SEAs must have *awarded* ESSER I funds. States return any ESSER I funds not awarded within 1 year since receiving funds (see allocation sheet for when funds were received); ED will reallocate any funds received.

May 2021
States expected to have *awarded* ESSER III funds within 60 days of receipt from ED or have an explanation for delay (see March 24, 2021)

May 6, 2021
ED begins first in an ongoing series of "Office Hours"

May 24, 2021
Comments on Interim Final Requirements Due

May 26, 2021
ESSER and GEER FAQs released by ED

June 2021
Within 30 days of receiving ESSER III funds from the SEA, LEAs expected to develop, seek public comment, and make public plans for safe reopening to in-person instruction (according to interim final rule)

June 7, 2021
Date by which states must submit State Plans to obtain release of final 1/3 of ESSER III funds. Note that states may request extensions and submit State Plans at a later date. State plans are posted here.

June 21, 2021
States must have made information on the number of schools providing each mode of instruction (remote, hybrid, in-person) publicly available on website (according to interim final rule)

Late Summer 2021
On a timeline set by the state, LEA must create, seek comment, and publish plan for spending funds on addressing learning loss, and supporting students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health (according to interim final rule)

September 30, 2021
Final date for ED to award any of the ESSER I funds

2022

January 2022
SEA must have *awarded* all ESSER II Funds

September 30, 2022
Last date ESSER I funds are *available for obligation* by SEA, LEA, or other subgrantee (this includes the Tydings period)

2023

September 30, 2023
Last date ESSER II funds are *available for obligation* by SEA, LEA, or other subgrantee (this includes the Tydings period)

2024

September 30, 2024
Last date ESSER III funds are *available for obligation* by SEA, LEA, or other subgrantee (this includes the Tydings period)

2025

January 28, 2025
While the Congressional Budget Office (pg 13) estimates that ESSER outlays will extend through 2028, updated ED guidance (pg 48) requests that ESSER 3 funds be liquidated within 120 days after Sept 30, 2024

TERMS

ED: U.S. Department of Education

ESSER: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds provided in pandemic relief bills

CARES: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act passed in March 2020 that included first ESSER, or ESSER I

CRRSA: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, pandemic relief bill providing ESSER II

ARP: American Rescue Plan, pandemic relief bill passed in March 2021, providing ESSER III

Interim Final Rule: The ED issued an interim final rule on April 22, 2021, outlining guidance and process state and local agencies must follow in ARP ESSER planning

Award: Refers to funds moving from the SEA to LEA or other sub-recipient

Obligate: A legally binding commitment is in place for funds to be spent on a particular purpose (e.g., an agreement to pay a staff person for a time period of 3 years preserves the money toward this purpose, but does not require the funds leave the account all at once)

NOTE: State **reporting periods** on the use of these funds occur throughout this timeline.

COLOR KEY: Legislation | Fund Release | Funds Deadline | Action Deadline | Other *(Including regulations and guidance)*