

ARP: Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III)



Purpose

A total of \$121.9B has been allocated for the ESSER III Fund to provide State Education Agencies (SEAs), and their Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), with emergency relief funds to address the pandemic impact on elementary and secondary schools across the country.



Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) = \$121.9B

Grant Overview

Through The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) of 2021, funding was allocated to the US Department of Education (DoED) to make another supplemental round of [Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund \(ESSER III\)](#) grants.

These funds are to be used in addition to those already provided under the Education Stabilization Fund via the CARES and CRRSA Acts.

The ESSER III Fund provides State Education Agencies (SEAs), and their Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the country.

Eligibility

State Education Agencies are eligible to apply initially. It is expected that SEAs will then redistribute or re-grant awarded funds to LEAs, including charter schools, within their jurisdiction.

Use of Funds

Broad allowable uses of funds include preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19. There are 15 uses specified including:

- Purchasing EdTech to facilitate continued learning
- Addressing learning loss among students (especially those considered “at-risk”)
- Other activities necessary to maintain operations & continuity of services
- Training and professional development.

Additionally, ESSER III funds could go toward an E-rate applicant’s non-discount portion (matching funds). We suggest following the [USAC guidance](#).

The Cisco Public Funding Office

- Provides assistance in identifying state and federal funding to support your project.
- Provides detailed information and grant verbiage for Cisco® technology.
- Assists with general grant project design and partnership recommendations.
- Acts as an extra set of eyes to review grant proposals.

Next steps

To learn more about available grants funding, please contact your Cisco account manager or public funding advisor at grantquestions@cisco.com

Plus, find out how you can build a bridge to highly secure distance learning, virtual classrooms, and administrative collaboration with [Cisco solutions for education](#).

Grant Timeline

- Each State shall make allocations to LEAs in an expedited and timely manner and, to the extent practicable, not later than 60 days after the receipt of such funds from DoED.
- LEAs should contact their SEA for steps on how to access these funds once monies have been obligated to the state.
- Funds under this program will remain available for LEA obligation through September 30, 2023.
- Funds may also be used to reimburse any allowable pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020, when the national coronavirus emergency was declared.
- This is a one-time emergency funding opportunity. Future deadlines are not anticipated.

Allocations

[Individual SEA allocations](#)

Additional Resources

- [Program Page](#)
- [Announcement/Press Release](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Application Guidance](#)

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