

# Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds

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# Disclaimer

This presentation is designed to help you understand federal and state requirements and procedures for the ESSER I, II, and III Subgrants.

This presentation is not a substitute for reading the ESSER subgrant award, the program-specific assurances, the SCDE's Assurances and Terms and Conditions for Federal Subawards, and the applicable federal regulations for this subaward.

# Purpose

The purpose of this session is to provide an overview of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief funds (ESSER I, II, and III) as provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, and the American Rescue Plan (ARPA) Act

# **CARES ACT**

# CARES Act

- On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) was signed into law
- The US Department of Education has provided \$30.75 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I Fund)
- USED awarded grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing 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

# ESSER I

- ESSER I program authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act signed into law on March 27, 2020
- 12 categories of allowable activities under ESSER I
- Funds must be expended by **September 30, 2022**
- Equitable services required on the part of the LEAs under ESSER I

# ESSER I Allocation

- States' awards based on Title I allocation
  - South Carolina awarded \$216,311,158
- SCDE has subgranted 90% of funds (\$194,680,042) to school districts based on their proportion of Title I, Part A funds from summer 2019, with 12 allowable uses of funds
- SCDE has reserved 10% (\$21,631,116) for state level activities
  - Half of one percent of the total (\$1,081,555) for administrative costs
- Grant expires on September 30, 2022

# ESSER I –12 Areas of Allowable Uses of Funds

1. Any activities authorized under ESSA
  - a) IDEA
  - b) Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
  - c) Perkins Act
  - d) Subtitle B of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
2. Coordinate emergency response
3. Address needs of highly vulnerable populations
4. Support school leaders and school needs
5. Ensure preparedness and coordination (systems & procedures)



# ESSER I –12 Areas of Allowable Uses of Funds

6. Training related to infectious diseases
7. Purchase cleaning supplies to sanitize and clean schools
8. Planning/coordinating for continued education during long-term closures
9. Purchase education technology
10. Mental health supports
11. Summer learning
12. Other activities to ensure continuity of education and employment\*

Detailed descriptions: <https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/cares-act-funding-categories/>

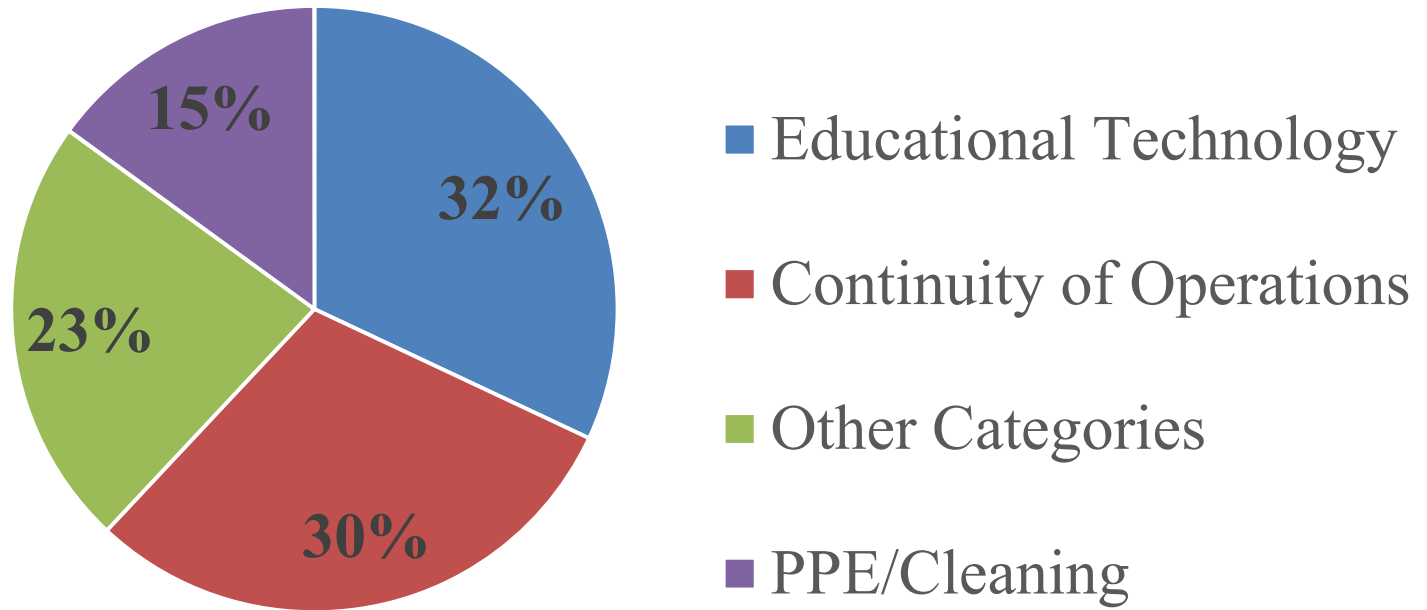
# ESSER –Monitoring and Reporting

- Monitoring
  - Districts monitored through a tiered system
  - Conducted remotely
- Quarterly Reports
  - Due 5 days following the close of each calendar quarter
  - Amount of subgrant funds requested in GAPS and received during the quarter
  - Amount of subgrant funds expended by allowable activity during the quarter
- USED Reporting Requirements
  - ESF Portal: <https://covid-relief-data.ed.gov/profile/state/SC>

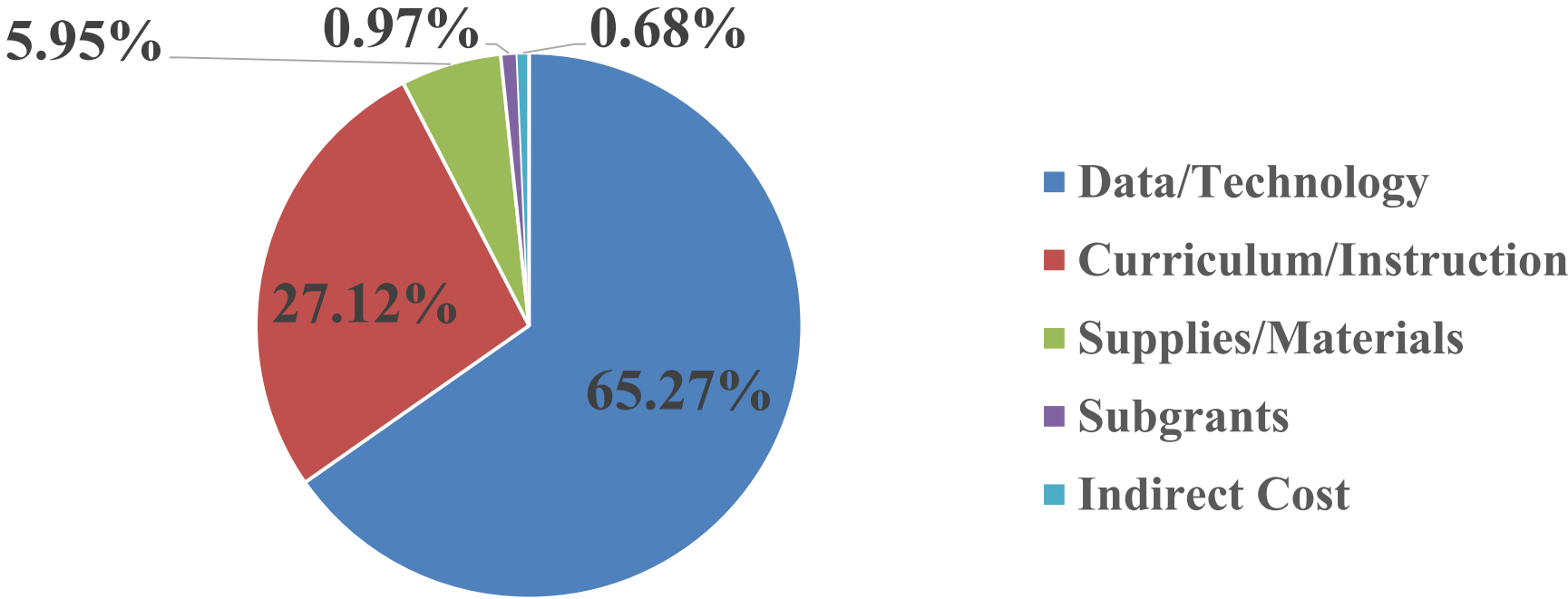
# ESSER I Progress Report

- Over half of flow-through funds have been claimed to-date
- 15 districts have spent 90% or more of ESSER I to date
- Five districts have received compliance monitoring to date

# ESSER I District Budgets



# ESSER I State Activities



State-Level Budget: \$20,549,560.00

# **CRRSA ACT (ESSER II)**

# CRRSA Act

- On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) was signed into law
- The US Department of Education is providing an additional \$54.3 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund)
- USED awarded grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing 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

# ESSER II

- ESSER II is authorized by Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) signed into law on December 27, 2020.
- 15 spending categories under ESSER II
  - 12, 13, and 14 are new allowable activities
- Funds must be expended by **September 30, 2023**
- Equitable services are **not** required by subgrantees under ESSER II
  - SCDE is currently facilitating the distribution of emergency funds through the Emergency Assistance to Non-public Schools (EANS) program



# ESSER II Allocation

- States' awards based on Title I allocation
  - South Carolina awarded \$940,420,782
- SCDE subgranted 90% of funds (\$846,378,704) to school districts based on their proportion of Title I, Part A funds from summer 2020
- SCDE will reserve 10% (\$94,042,078) for state level activities
- Grant expires on **September 30, 2023**

# ESSER II – Category 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 by:
  - Administering high-quality assessments to accurately determine students' academic progress and needs
  - Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the needs of students
  - Providing information and assistance to parents with distance learning
  - Tracking student attendance and engagement in distance learning

# Category 13 and 14

- Category 13: School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
- Category 14: Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.

# ESSER II - Category 13 and 14, Continued

- Provide greater detail in ESSER II spending plan
- SCDE needs to determine the alteration level (Level 1 through 3)
- May give “conditional” approval until approval from SCDE Office of School Facilities (OSF) for Level 2 and 3 requests
- Special Considerations:
  - Justify it is *to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19*
  - Costs must be reasonable (for new construction documenting that it is cheaper for new than repairing existing)
  - Davis-Bacon rules apply
  - Cannot claim funds in this category until full approval from SCDE OSF
  - Must follow EDGAR requirements on construction

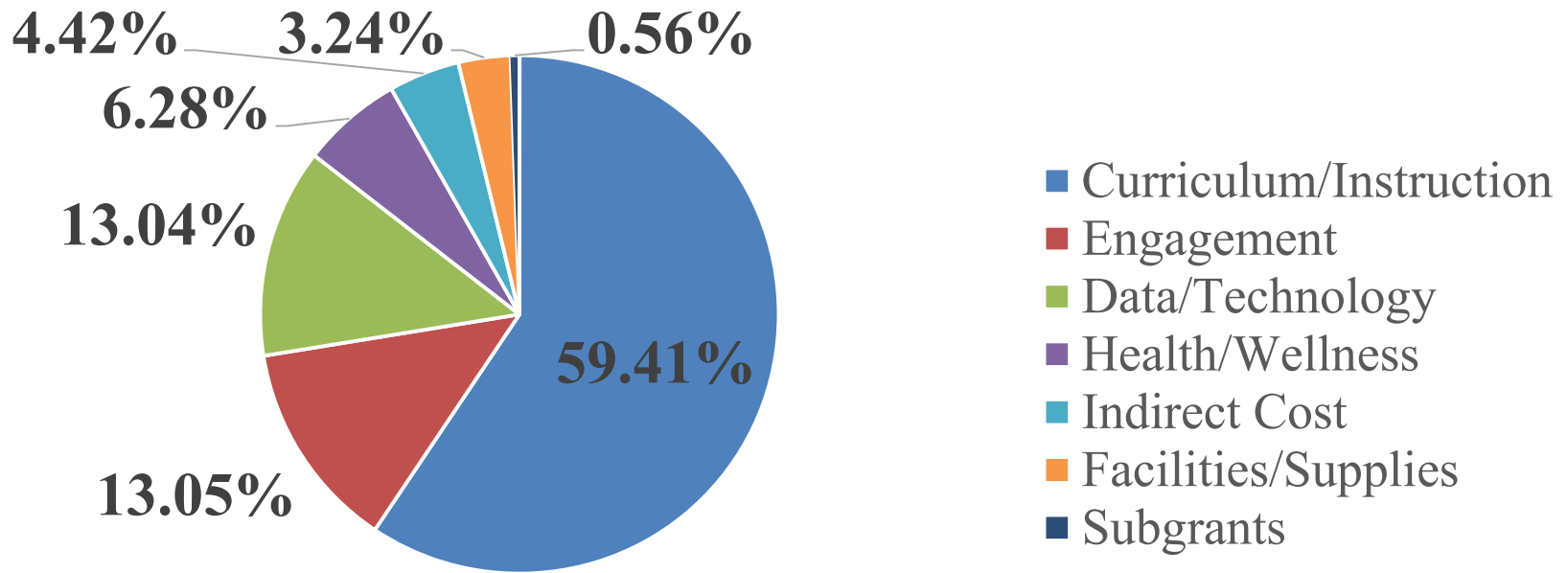
# South Carolina Building Codes

- Level 1 Alteration: The removal and replacement of the **covering** of existing materials using new materials that serve the same purpose
- Level 2 Alteration: Reconfiguration or extension of any space/system, addition or elimination of any door or window, or the installation of any additional equipment
- Level 3 Alteration: A level 1 or level 2 alteration where the work area exceeds 50% of the building area (includes new construction)
- Routine Maintenance: Changing air filters, painting, etc.

# ESSER II - District Funds, continued

- Congressional focus in new categories on:
  - Addressing Learning Loss
  - School Facility Improvements
  - Indoor Air Quality Improvements
- Reflected in district applications received to-date
  - Approximately 70% of budgeted funds on 3 new categories

# ESSER II State Activities



State-Level Budget: \$89,339,932.00

# ARP ACT



# ARPA

- On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans Act (ARPA) was signed into law
- The US Department of Education is providing an additional \$121,974,800 for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund)
- USED awarded grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing 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

# ESSER III

- ESSER III fund authorized by American Rescue Plan Act that was signed into law on March 11, 2021
- SCDE is expecting an allocation for public schools totaling \$2,112,051,487
- Different requirements for districts and the SCDE from ESSER I & II
  - Districts will be required to set aside a certain percentage of funds devoted to learning loss
  - SCDE will be required to set aside and expend a certain percentage of funds for required activities such as learning loss and afterschool

# SC's ESSER III Funding

- Total Award: **\$2,112,051,487**
  - LEA flow-through: \$1,900,846,338
  - State Reserve: \$380,169,268
    - Learning Loss: \$105,602,575
    - Summer Enrichment: \$21,120,514
    - Afterschool Programs: \$21,120,514
    - Other emergency needs: \$52,801,288
- Two thirds provided March 24
  - LEA subgrant awards by May 24
- Remaining third after approval of SC's ARP Plan

# LEA Subgrant Requirements

- Must spend 20% on learning loss
- Remaining 80% spent in 15 other categories (similar to ESSER II)
- Must complete and submit application/district plan within 90 days (by August 24, 2021)
  - Must get public input on district plan

# District Return to In-Person

- Within 30 days (by June 24, 2021) – plan for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must be online
  - must get public input on plan
  - must take public input into account
- Previous plan is allowable *if*
  - posted publicly and
  - public has had input (evidence of input)

# Other Requirements

- Maintenance of Equity (Sec. 2004(c))
- Reporting requirements, including:
  - Mode of instruction
  - Uses of funds to meet needs, particularly by subgroup
  - Opportunity to learn data
  - Impacts and outcomes by subgroup
  - Student data (by subgroup) on COVID-19 impact
  - Jobs created/retained by type
  - Participation rates in ESSER III-funded activities

# Application Process

- Subgrant GAN → Substantially Approvable → Application → Full Approval
- Application:
  - How 20% reserved for learning loss will be used (linked to Recovery Plan by Goal/Objective)
  - How interventions will respond to those most impacted, including by subgroup (qualitative/quantitative)
  - How remaining funds to be used
  - Information on public reporting and public input
  - How funds will be used to safely operate schools
  - Assurances
  - GEPA statement

# Monitoring Requirements

- Implementing evidence-based interventions
- Addressing specific needs of subgroups and those most impacted
- Identifying and re-engaging those with lost instructional time
- Uses of funds/return on investment



# Timeline and Process

- Technical Assistance session to be set: **May 19, 2021**
- Subawards and Assurances to LEAs by **May 24, 2021**
- LEAs sign & return signed GAN to [scesser@ed.sc.gov](mailto:scesser@ed.sc.gov)
- Districts that are *substantially approvable* may proceed with uploading budget into GAPS and making claims
- LEAs make reopening plan publicly available by **June 24, 2021**
- LEAs submit a completed ESSER III application for review and approval by **August 24, 2021**, and account for 100% of ESSER III fund and other components

# SCDE Resources

- ESSER III Webpage: <https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/esser-iii-funding-information/USED ESSER>
- USED ARP Website: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief/>
- ESSER I Webpage: <https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/>
- ESSER II Webpage: <https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/esser-2-funding-information/>

# Questions?

- Please email
  - SCDE ESSER email: [scesser@ed.sc.gov](mailto:scesser@ed.sc.gov)
  - John R. Payne, [jrpayne@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jrpayne@ed.sc.gov)