



Allowable Use of ESSER Funds for Stemming Learning Loss

We are facing an educational crisis. Because of the pandemic, summer learning loss will be at an all-time high. According to an analysis by McKinsey & Company, our nation's students will experience an average of 9 months of learning loss during the 15-month period, spanning from the beginning of the first shutdown to the end of the current school year. However, students of color are projected to lose as much as 12 months of learning during this period. This will have a huge negative impact on students' standardized test scores and hurt accountability ratings for schools and districts.

Thankfully, the US Department of Education recently allotted billions of dollars in emergency relief efforts, such as ESSER II funding, to help schools get back on track. ESSER II funding can be used to purchase supplemental, mastery-based educational programs such as what MasteryPrep provides. By taking advantage of purchasing our summer programming with your ESSER II funds, you can help stem learning loss for all students, fill in the gap, and improve your school or district's accountability ratings.

For more on the allowable uses of ESSER II funds, see below. The highlighted portions are specifically what MasteryPrep resources can help with.

* LEAs may spend their funds on a wide variety of activities as identified under the CARES Act (sec. 18003 (d)) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (sec. 313 (d)).

The allowable uses of ESSER funds are outlined in Section 18003(d) of the CARES Act and Section 1867 of the CRRSA Act. These sections are consolidated for ease of reading as follows:

"A local education agency that receives funds under this title may use the funds for any of the following:

1. Any activity authorized by the ESEA of 1965, including the Native Hawaiian Education Act and the Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) ("IDEA"), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) ("the Perkins Act"), or subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.).
2. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
3. *Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.*
4. Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.
5. Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
6. Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
7. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.



8. Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including for how to provide meals to eligible students, how to provide technology for online learning to all students, how to provide guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.
 9. *Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students 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, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.*
 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:*
 - A. *Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable to accurately assess students' academic progress and assists educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through 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 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, 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.
 15. Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.
- * LEAs may spend their funds on a wide variety of activities as identified under the CARES Act (sec. 18003 (d)) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (sec. 313 (d)).

Sources:

- Pages 11 and 12 from U.S. Department of Education Certification and Agreement for Funding under the Education Stabilization Fund Program Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund:
<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/04/GEER-Certification-and-Agreement.pdf>
- Page 1,874 from The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021:
<https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/BILLS-116HR133SA-RCP-116-68.pdf>