

June 19, 2020

Dear eligible Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund subrecipients,

**Information on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act  
ESSER Fund Application**

This letter is to inform local educational agencies (LEAs) that the ESSER Fund application required by the CARES Act is now available. Eligible LEAs must complete an application by July 15, 2020, in order to receive funds through the 1<sup>st</sup> apportionment. Eligible LEAs that do not apply by July 15, 2020, may apply after July 15 to receive funds through subsequent apportionments based on quarterly expenditure reporting.

The ESSER Fund application is available here:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/index.asp>

Preliminary allocation amounts are available here:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/documents/caresact20ent1.xlsx>.

A separate email following this letter will provide LEAs with a password to access the ESSER Fund Application.

**Background**

Congress set aside approximately \$13.2 billion of the \$30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act for the ESSER Fund. This funding provides LEAs with emergency relief funds to address the impact that Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. More information about the ESSER Fund can be found here: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/>.

State awards of ESSER Funds are in the same proportion as each state received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, in fiscal year 2019-20. Each state must use no less than 90 percent of its allocation to make subgrants to LEAs, based on each LEA's share of funds received under Title I, Part A in fiscal year 2019-20. California's minimum distribution amount that must be allocated to LEAs is \$1,482,575,514.

An LEA may use funds for any activity authorized by the ESEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Perkins Career and Technical Education, Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, and for other purposes related to response coordination, professional development,

purchasing technology, buying sanitization supplies, and other activities. (Section 18003(d)).

An LEA may use ESSER Funds for any allowable expenditure incurred on or after March 13, 2020, the date the President declared the national emergency due to COVID- 19.

LEAs have until September 30, 2022 to obligate ESSER funds.

### **Additional Information**

More information about the CARES Act and associated funds and waivers, including the ESSER Fund can be found here: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/cr/index.asp>.

### **Contacts**

**Program Questions:** [CARESAct@cde.ca.gov](mailto:CARESAct@cde.ca.gov)

Questions about the application process, use of funds, and reporting requirements.

**Fiscal Questions:** Leslie Sharp, [LSharp@cde.ca.gov](mailto:LSharp@cde.ca.gov)

Questions about the determination of LEA allocation amounts and the timing and apportionment of funds.

Sincerely,



Lisa Constancio, Deputy Superintendent  
Operations & Administration Branch

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