COVID-19 Learning Recovery in Rhode Island
COMMUNITY FACT SHEET
The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

Focus on the Core Cities

The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund is part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. ARP ESSER, also known as ESSER III, provides funding to states and school districts to reopen schools safely, maximize in-person instruction, and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students, families, and educators.

This is in addition to funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, also known as ESSER II, which was passed in December, 2020. Rhode Island will receive $599.8 million from these federal stimulus packages. The Rhode Island Department (RIDE) will receive approximately $59.9 million and school districts will receive the remaining $539.8 million.\(^2\,^3\)

How Much Funding Will Each School District Receive?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL DISTRICT</th>
<th>Total Enrollment</th>
<th>ESSER II</th>
<th>ESSER III (ARP)</th>
<th>ESSER II + III</th>
<th>Combined Allocation Per Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Falls</td>
<td>2,780</td>
<td>$6,729,352</td>
<td>$15,115,977</td>
<td>$21,845,329</td>
<td>$7,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawtucket</td>
<td>8,450</td>
<td>$14,065,929</td>
<td>$31,595,949</td>
<td>$45,661,878</td>
<td>$5,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providence</td>
<td>22,440</td>
<td>$57,181,900</td>
<td>$128,446,294</td>
<td>$185,628,194</td>
<td>$8,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woonsocket</td>
<td>5,742</td>
<td>$12,858,675</td>
<td>$28,884,123</td>
<td>$41,742,798</td>
<td>$7,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Rhode Island</td>
<td>139,184</td>
<td>$165,236,752</td>
<td>$371,167,238</td>
<td>$536,403,990</td>
<td>$3,854</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education. ESSER III Preliminary Allocations to LEAs, 2021. Combined allocation per student calculation is based on Rhode Island Department of Education, Public School Enrollment in preschool through grade 12 as of October 1, 2020. Excludes funds designated for expanding charter school seats.

How Can Funds Be Used?

- Funds can be used to create transformative changes that students and families want by providing equitable resources needed to help students holistically thrive.

- A minimum of 20% of funds must be used to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through evidence-based interventions that respond to students’ social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Students of Color, students from low-income families, students with disabilities, Multilingual Learners, students experiencing homelessness, and students in foster care.

- The remaining funds can be used for a wide range of activities.

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\(^{2}\) 2021

\(^{3}\) 2021
What Is the Timeline?

**March 11, 2021**
ARP ESSER is enacted.

**June 7, 2021**
RIDE submits its ARP ESSER plan to the U.S. Department of Education.

**July 2021**
RIDE releases application for school districts to apply for ARP ESSER funds.

**July-August 2021**
School districts consult with students, families, teachers, community members to develop plan for ARP ESSER funds.

**August 2021**
School district plans due to RIDE. Approved plans posted on school district websites.

**Every 6 months**
School districts may revise Back-To-School plans to incorporate stakeholder feedback and concerns.

**Sept. 30, 2023**
Funds must be committed to a specific purpose, but does not have to be spent yet. School districts can request a 12-month extension.

Sources:

Ways to Get Involved

School districts must consult with students and families to develop a plan for the ARP ESSER funds. Plans must include evidence of meaningful stakeholder engagement.6

- Provide input to your school district on its plan.
- Review your school district’s plan. All plans will be centrally accessible at back2schoolri.com and on school district websites.
- Attend school board meetings to advocate for changes as needed.
- Attend RIDE community meetings and council meetings to advocate for changes as needed.
- Encourage community-based organizations to apply for funds to enhance or develop programs and systemic changes that will support your school community.

Community Fact Sheet Contributors: