



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.¹

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}

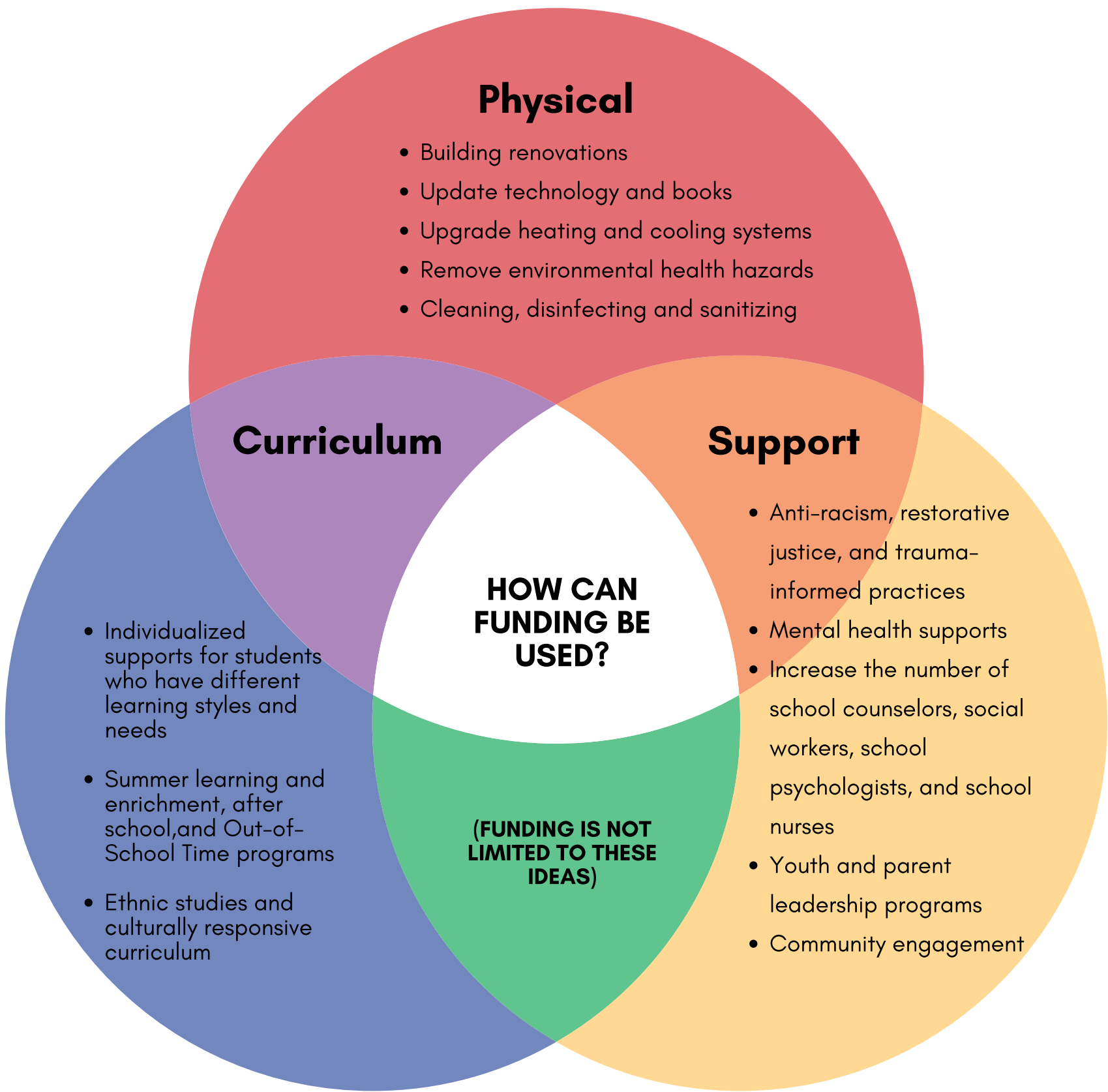
How Much Funding Will Each School District Receive?

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

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, ESSER II 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.



Source: U.S. Department of Education. (2021). *Frequently asked questions: Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief programs Governor's Emergency Education Relief programs*. Retrieved June 17, 2021, from [ese.ed.gov](https://www.ese.ed.gov)

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 APR 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 incorproate 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: Rhode Island Department of Education. (2021). *State plan for the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund*. Retrieved June 7, 2021, from ride.ri.gov

U.S. Department of Education. (2021). *Frequently asked questions: Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief programs Governor's Emergency Education Relief programs*. Retrieved June 17, 2021, from oese.ed.gov

U.S. Department of Education. (2021). *Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund: Frequently asked questions about the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)*. Retrieved July 6, 2021, from oese.ed.gov

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.



References

1,2,4,5 U.S. Department of Education. (2021). *Frequently asked questions: Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief programs Governor's Emergency Education Relief programs*. Retrieved June 17, 2021, from oese.ed.gov

3 Rhode Island Department of Education. (2021). *Rhode Island's Learning, Equity & Accelerated Pathways (LEAP) task force: Status update for the Rhode Island Senate*. [PowerPoint slides].

6 Rhode Island Department of Education. (2021). *State plan for the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund*. Retrieved June 7, 2021, from ride.ri.gov

U.S. Department of Education. (2021).

Community Fact Sheet Contributors:

