

Federal COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funding Guide



Illinois
State Board of
Education

Federal funds focus on closing gaps

- The chart on the next slide shows the total allocations for each of the three federal pandemic relief grants.
- ISBE must distribute not less than 90 percent of each grant directly to school districts based on their proportion of Title I funding.
- The federal grants require that districts receive their funds on a reimbursement basis, once they have an approved application.
- Half a percent is reserved for administrative costs, and the remaining 9.5 percent is the state's set-aside.
- Each grant funds efforts for 2-3 years. These are extraordinary supports to close gaps caused by COVID-19.



Summary of federal COVID-19 relief fund allocations

	ESSER I (CARES)	ESSER II (CRRSA)	ESSER III (ARP)
State Total	\$569,467,218	\$2,250,804,891	\$5,054,988,054
Available through	Sept. 30, 2022	Sept. 30, 2023	Sept. 30, 2024
Directly to districts (90%)	\$512,520,496	\$2,025,724,402	\$4,549,489,249
ISBE (State Education Agency) set-aside (9.5%)	\$54,099,386	\$213,826,465	\$480,223,865 – Total \$252,749,403 – Learning Loss \$50,549,881 – Summer Enrichment \$50,549,881 – After School \$126,374,700 – Address Impact of COVID-19
Directed to ISBE administrative costs	\$2,847,336	\$11,254,024	\$25,274,940



Learning Renewal Resource Guide

- The Illinois P-20 Council, in partnership with ISBE, launched the [Learning Renewal Resource Guide](#) to help districts determine for themselves how best to spend their funds.
- The guide is designed to serve as a starting point for local conversations about investing federal pandemic relief funding to close the kinds of gaps we see in the 2021 Illinois Report Card data.
- The Learning Renewal Resource Guide is meant to be informational, not directive. It's a voluntary guide to support districts in making the changes and improvements that they've known were needed but didn't have the resources to implement ... until now.
- Find the 12 strategies recommended in the guide on the next slide.



P20 Council's recommended strategies for learning renewal

1. Support enrollment, retention, and re-engagement initiatives to ensure academic progression across the P-20 spectrum.
2. Build individualized student fact base with academic and behavioral diagnostics and progress monitoring.
3. Reimagine school calendar and expand school day/year.
4. Provide out-of-classroom learning experiences through tutoring, after school, summer camps, etc.
5. Connect districts/institutions with community organizations that connect students to comprehensive support.
6. Enhance accessibility of academic and behavioral counseling resources, especially for at-risk students (including year-round support).
7. Invest in infrastructure for mental wellness and trauma-informed, culturally responsive schools, including educator PD and support.
8. Evaluate and improve hybrid/remote learning models to develop long-term digital strategic priorities.
9. Improve quality of learning through altered classroom structures, educator professional development, and digital tools.
10. Increase flexibility of secondary, postsecondary environment to accommodate for other responsibilities.
11. Support students with structured engagement and enhanced communications in transition periods.
12. Design an integrated education/workforce strategy and playbook and offer work-driven credit opportunities.



How has ISBE used its State Education Agency set-aside so far?

- ISBE has allocated its state-directed portion of the ESSER funds in line with the goals in its Strategic Plan:
 - Student Learning
 - Learning Conditions
 - Elevating Educators
- Learn more about the state ESSER initiatives at www.isbe.net/learningrenewal.



Student Learning

Using the Evidence-Based Funding formula, \$340 million for after-school programs, learning loss, and summer enrichment

OneGoal partnership to support high-need districts in closing gaps in access to postsecondary

\$130 million for devices and connectivity to close the digital divide

\$25 million for high-impact tutoring initiative for students with greatest need



Learning Conditions

Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing (REACH) statewide hubs to provide social-emotional learning and trauma-informed supports to districts

\$100 million to fund mental health partnerships between schools and community organizations



Elevating Educators

Mentoring and coaching program to support first-year educators

\$2 million to create affinity groups for teachers of color



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Want to dig deeper?

ESSER funds are allocated to help schools address the academic and social-emotional impact of COVID-19 by offering extra supports to students. Consider...

- **Chronic absenteeism** rates: Did differences in access to in-person instruction result in gaps between student groups? How are districts spending ESSER funds to ensure safe in-person instruction (testing, personal protective equipment, ventilation, etc.)?
- **Attendance** rates: Are districts spending their ESSER funds or applying for state-funded programs to re-engage students through mental health services?
- **Ninth-graders on track** and **eighth-graders passing Algebra I**: How are districts using their ESSER funds to provide extra services, such as tutoring and before- and after-school programming, for students who received failing grades?
- **Assessment data**: How are districts spending ESSER funds to boost growth in learning and address gaps for different student groups?

