Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II Fund
Frequently Asked Questions

General

1. Is the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II) Fund Step-by-Step Application Process webinar available to view?

   The [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II Step-by-Step Application Process webinar](#) is available at ISBE.net.

2. Is the ESSER II application a separate IWAS system from ESSER I?

   Yes, ESSER I and ESSER II are separate grant applications.

3. Must the Local Education Agency expend all Title I funds and/or ESSER I funding before accessing ESSER II funding?

   No, the LEA does not have to expend all Title I and ESSER I before accessing ESSER II funds. These three grants may be accessed simultaneously.

4. Are nonpublic schools eligible for ESSER II services?

   Nonpublic schools are not eligible for ESSER II services. Nonpublic schools are eligible for services and assistance through the Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools program.

Application

1. Does the total allocation need to be budgeted?

   Yes, the total allocation must be budgeted.

2. Why does the ESSER II grant application state "Eligible Reimbursement Dates of 3/13/2020 - 9/30/2023," but the application end date is 9/30/2021?

   The fiscal year 2021 ESSER II grant application ends on 9/30/2021 and can have expenditures between 3/13/2021 through 9/30/2021. Carryover funds, if applicable, will be added to the next fiscal year application.

3. Is there a limit on the number of grant amendments?

   No, there is not a limit on the number of amendments.

4. What is the deadline to submit the ESSER II grant application?

   The ESSER II application is due as soon as possible, but no later than June 30, 2021.

5. What type of indirect cost rate is allowed with ESSER II funds?

   ESSER II utilizes the unrestricted rate; the maximum allowable amount is calculated in the grant application.

6. What service would be considered as a subcontractor?

   A service that employs a business or person on behalf of the applicant to do (work) as part of a larger project would be considered to be a subcontractor.

7. Where are district allocations located?

   Allocations are available on the budget page of the grant application.

8. Is there flexibility to transfer Title grants carryover funds into ESSER II?

   No, Title funds cannot be transferred into ESSER II.

9. What function code is used for HVAC improvements that prevent, prepare, and respond to COVID-19?

   HVAC improvements function code is 2540 - Operation and Maintenance of Plant Services.

10. What function code will be used for classroom cameras and microphones for remote learning in response to COVID-19?

    Cameras and microphones for instruction in classrooms function code is 1000 - Instructional services.

11. Is federal Teacher Retirement System (TRS) required for certified salaries in this grant?

    Yes, federal TRS requirements apply to ESSER II. The current federal TRS rate is 10.41%.

12. Do supplement not supplant restrictions apply to ESSER II?

    ESSER II does not have a supplement not supplant (SNS) requirement. As a result, ESSER funds may take the place of State or local funds for allowable activities.

Allowable Expenditures
1. What are allowable expenditures for ESSER II?

   All expenditures in ESSER II should meet the intent of the grant to prepare for, respond to, and prevent COVID-19. The allowable use of funds include:

   - *Any activity authorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Perkins V, McKinney-Vento, or Adult Education and Family Literacy Act*
   - *Coordination of preparedness and response with local units of government*
   - *Providing districts with resources to address the needs of their schools*
   - *Activities to address the unique needs of disadvantaged students*

- *Developing and implementing procedures for preparedness and response efforts*
- *Training and professional development on sanitation*
- *Supplies for sanitation*
- *Planning for and coordinating long-term closures*
- *Technology*
- *Mental health services*
- *Summer and extended learning opportunities*
- *Addressing learning loss*
- *Preparing schools for reopening and testing*
- *Repairing and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings*

2. Does ESSER II allow substitute pay to replace a teacher out with COVID-19?

   Yes, substitute pay to help prevent, prepare for, or respond to COVID-19 is allowed in ESSER II.

3. Would hiring a teacher to be solely responsible for online/remote students be an allowable expense?

   Yes, hiring a teacher to instruct online/remote learning is an allowable expenditure.

4. Are personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning/sanitizing supplies allowable expenditures in ESSER II?

   Yes, PPE and cleaning supplies are allowable expenditures.

5. Can the cost of a contracted nurse supporting temperature checks, screenings, and other COVID-19-related tasks be allowed?

   Yes, a nurse contracted to support COVID-19-related tasks is allowable.

Reporting
1. How frequently can we submit expenditure reports?

   Expenditure reports are due quarterly. However, they may be submitted and processed more frequently.

2. Is grant periodic reporting required every quarter?

   The Grant Periodic Reporting System reports are required biannually for ESSER II.

3. What is the funding source code for ESSER II?

   The funding source code for ESSER II is 4998-E2.