

2021-24 American Rescue Plan

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

Local Educational Agency ARP ESSER Plan,

Application and Assurances

**[LEA and Number]**

**Purpose**

Florida must subgrant not less than 90 percent of its total ARP ESSER allocation to local educational agencies (LEAs) (including charter schools that are LEAs) to help meet a wide range of needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic, including reopening schools safely, sustaining their safe operation, and addressing students’ social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs resulting from the pandemic. The State must allocate these funds to LEAs on the basis of their respective shares of funds received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) in fiscal year (FY) 2020.

The purpose of this document is to guide districts to plan for the continued implementation of reopening and recovery through the utilization of the 2021-24 ARP ESSER and to assure federal requirements are met. Florida utilized the 2020-21 District Reopening Plan and the Spring 2021 Education Plan to respond to and mitigate the impact of the emergency and to promote the health, safety, and welfare of persons connected with Florida’s educational system.

The Department recognizes that the safe return to in-person instruction must be accompanied by a focus on meeting students’ academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs, and by addressing the opportunity gaps that existed before – and were exacerbated by – the pandemic. In this document, districts will describe how they will support the development of high-quality plans for the use of ARP ESSER funds to achieve these objectives for the following student groups: students from low-income families, from each racial or ethnic background, by gender, English Language Learners, students with disabilities, experiencing homelessness, in foster care, migratory students and other student groups.

**Directions**

Districts shall submit its ARP ESSER application to the Office of Grants Management via ShareFile **on or before November 12, 2021**. ShareFile access has been established for the ARP ESSER Lump Sum program for each LEA. The complete application shall include:

* LEA ARP ESSER Plan, Application and Assurances utilizing this template;
* DOE 100A Project Application Form; and
* DOE 101 Budget Narrative Form.

Each LEA developed and made publicly available on the LEA’s website a plan for the safe return of in-person learning in the Fall of 2020. This was before the enactment of the ARP Act. This plan must be updated to address the requirements of the U.S. Department of Education’s Interim Final Rule, 88 FR 21195. The requirements of the Interim Final Rule are summarized in Appendix A. Each LEA shall seek public comment on the updated plan and take such comments into account prior to the submission of the final plan to the Department. Updated plans must comply with state law, including any applicable executive order, any agency emergency action, or any agency regulation or rule. No later than 60 days from receipt of its DOE 200, Project Award Notice, each LEA shall email its updated final plan to recoveryplan@fldoe.org. The subject line of the email must include district name and Plan for the Safe Return of In-person Instruction. Upon the Department’s approval, the LEA shall post this plan on the LEA’s website within 90 days of the award.

**Part I: Implementation Plan**

**The LEA will submit an implementation plan, outlining planned activities for each of the following uses of funds under section 2001(e) of the ARP Act. The description must be adequate to ascertain that the proposed use of funds is necessary to prevent, prepare for, or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including its impact on the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students.**

**Activities should be numbered consecutively. If the LEA does not plan any activities for one or more authorized uses, please indicate that there are no planned activities. School district LEAs shall include the activities identified for charter schools within the LEA, aggregated at the district/LEA level.**

**Activity 1**: **Addressing Learning Loss (at least 20% of total allocation).** Of the total amount allocated to an LEA, the LEA must reserve at least 20 percent of funds to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that those interventions respond to students’ social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care).

1. The LEA has set-aside 20% of the total allocation to address learning loss by way of additional staff allocation including teacher allocations to reduce class sizes, provide intervention support, provide accelerated learning opportunities, and provide extended school day opportunities for students; and restorative justice coaches to provide in-school support to students to keep students in school and maximize learning during the school day.

2.The LEA is also using funds under this activity to provide summer school opportunities to students during the summer of SY21-22, SY22-23 and SY23-24.

3.The LEA plans to extend the use of ESSER I funded evidence-based “Attack the Gap” resources and continue ESSER I funded professional learning for teachers in the areas of Reading Recovery, Guided Reading, Critical Concepts and B.E.S.T. standards, and Canvas LMS. The LEA will focus funding on children with disabilities, the subgroup with the largest achievement gap, to provide ESY services, evidence-based curricular materials, SEL curriculum, and ESE pre-K and Access student progress monitoring to provide intentional intervention support to students.

**Activity 2** (**A**) **Any activity authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.**

[Begin text here.]

**Activity 2** (B) **Any activity authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.**

[Begin text here.]

**Activity 2** (C) **Any activity authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.**

[Begin text here.]

**Activity 2** (D) **Any activity authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.**

[Begin text here.]

**Activity 2** (E) **Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.**

[Begin text here.]

**Activity 2** (F) **Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.**

4. The LEA has dedicated a portion of funds to address the unique needs of children with disabilities with the purchase of pre-K ESE paraprofessionals to provide support to students under the supervision of a certified teacher.

5.The LEA will also extend the contracts of Reading Recovery teachers, intervention teachers, ELL Resource teachers and paraprofessionals, administrative assistants to counselors, Deans, and Reading and/or ESE teachers funded by ESSER II to continue to address the needs of students in all subgroups outlined in this activity through school year 2023-2024.

6. The LEA will also support the Charter request of providing free breakfast and lunch to low-income children as identified using direct certification and meal applications; currently 18/20 public schools participate in the CEP program and the charter school wishes to afford these same opportunities to their student population.

**Activity 2** (G) **Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.**

[Begin text here.]

**Activity 2** (H) **Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.**

[Begin text here.]

**Activity 2** (I) **Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.**

7. The LEA will use a portion of funds for PPE and cleaning/sanitizing supplies to maintain LEA operations, to clean and disinfect school building to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and keep schools open and operational. These items include gloves, disinfectant spray and backpack sprayers for sanitizing classrooms, hand sanitizer, hand soap, face masks, face shields, and protective goggles for staff and student health and safety, floor cleaner, surface cleaners, sanitizing wipes, and disinfecting wipes for cleaning and sanitizing schools and offices within the LEA.

**Activity 2** **(J**) **Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students, providing technology for online learning to all students, providing guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State,**

**and local requirements.**

[Begin text here.]

**Activity 2(K) Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.**

8. The LEA will purchase Interactive Flat Panels (IFPs) to replace outdated promethean boards and projectors, replace aged and damaged Chromebooks with new student Chromebooks, and tablets for classroom use with compatible IFPs, replacing outdated classroom instructional devices which are unable to connect to IFPs with newer relevant laptop computers, and purchasing additional charging carts for student Chromebooks.

9. In addition, the LEA will fund the fourth year of the Canvas Learning Management System funded through both ESSER I and ESSER II which serves as the one-stop learning management system for students and has integrated all district purchased student programs, curricular resources, and communication tools within. The purchase of these devices and learning management system annual renewal will aid classroom teachers in providing continuity in lessons whether students are in-person or learning virtually during absences and will also improve the reliability of devices and engagement of students by giving teachers and students the resources necessary for 21st century learning experiences.

10. The LEA will also support the charter school in their mission to update 10 campus classrooms with new fiber optic and analog technology to create a learning environment more conducive to learning in the 21st century.

**Activity 2(L) Providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools.**

11. The LEA will extend the contracts of additional certified school psychologists and social workers funded through ESSER II to continue to provide student and family outreach and mental health services and supports including increased teacher/parent communication, technological support, home visits, community resource referrals, and development of student engagement plans to students through the 2023-2024 school year.

12. The LEA will also support the charter school’s development of a fitness center for students and staff to combat mental fatigue, depression and anxiety through aerobic and anaerobic exercise and to support overall mental health and well-being. The Charter school does not have organized sports or access to a gym facility; this new fitness center would greatly benefit staff and students.

**Activity 2(M) Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.**

[Begin text here.]

**Activity 2(N) Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including by—**

**(i) administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students’ academic progress and assist educators in meeting students’ academic needs, including through differentiating instruction;**

**(ii) implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students;**

**(iii) providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment; and**

**(iv) tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.**

13. The LEA will fund an additional 15 minutes per day for instructional staff to participate in school-based professional development to create high-yield engaging lessons for both in-person and virtual instruction as needed, participate in professional learning communities to evaluate instruction and student data, and collaboratively plan standards-based instructional lessons using evidence-based strategies, programs and activities which will accelerate learning for all students, especially those in the high-risk subgroups outlined in this activity.

**Activity 2(O) School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.**

[Begin text here.]

**Activity 2(P) Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and nonmechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.**

[Begin text here.]

**Activity 2(Q) Developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent possible and not inconsistent with state law, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.**

14. The LEA will hire an additional 20 custodians to serve schools and maintain health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.

**Activity 2(R) Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.**

15. The LEA has faced many barriers since reopening schools to students in August of 2020 including increased staff shortages (including substitute staff), increased student and staff absenteeism, student and teacher fatigue, and decreased student engagement. To maintain operation and provide continuity of services, the LEA will use funding available in ESSER III to incentivize staff to get vaccinated by providing HSA Seed funds in the amount of $1250 per person to all staff who participate in the LEA employee benefits program and can provide proof of complete vaccination.

16. Additionally, the LEA will pay a one-time retention bonus in the amount of $1,000 per staff for all employees who were employed full time as of June 2, 2021 and were not eligible for the K-12 Educator Disaster Relief Payment.

**Activity 2 (S) Administration. LEAs may take reasonable and necessary administrative costs, to include direct and indirect costs. Indirect costs may be taken up to the negotiated, unrestricted indirect cost rate. However, to ensure that the total administrative costs are reasonable, the total direct and indirect costs may not exceed five percent (5%) of the LEA’s total award.**

17. The LEA unrestricted indirect cost rate is 14.46%; however, the LEA is reducing this rate to the maximum unrestricted indirect cost rate of 5% as outlined in the Lump Sum RFA.

**Part II: Ensuring Effectiveness of Interventions**

**Please describe how the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students.** **In your response, please include a description of interventions and strategies that are aligned to the LEA’s data (disaggregated by subgroup), and describe how the LEA will measure the effectiveness of the selected interventions.**

The LEA selected interventions all meet the ESSA criteria for evidence-based and have demonstrated effectiveness in learning gains for all student subgroups as outlined above. The interventions implemented through the ARP funds have been implemented in the LEA since the 2020-2021 school year, funded by ESSER I and have proven effective to close achievement gaps and accelerate learning, especially for those students disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. LEA data supports the need for math and reading intervention for all subgroups as the overall achievement in both reading and math as well as learning gains and learning gains for the lowest 25% declined from 2019 to 2021. The LEA will continue to measure the effectiveness of the selected interventions through ongoing progress monitoring completed at the beginning, middle, and end of year; common formative assessments that gauge grade-level standards mastery, proficiency scales as part of the LEA critical concepts, and Florida State Assessment results. Furthermore, each intervention program being implemented contains within a formative assessments and progress checks to ensure adequate progress is being met.

In addition to reading and math interventions, the LEA has also elected to support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students by extending the funding of additional school social workers, guidance counselors, and school psychologists originally funded by ESSER I to ensure student access to social, emotional, and mental health professionals at all LEA schools.

**Part III LEA Plan for Safe Return of In-Person Instruction**

Each LEA developed and made publicly available on the LEA’s website a plan for the safe return of in-person learning in the Fall of 2020. This was before the enactment of the ARP Act. This plan must be updated to address the requirements of the U.S. Department of Education’s Interim Final Rule, 88 FR 21195. The Interim Final Rule “does not mandate that an LEA adopt the CDC guidance, but only requires that the LEA describe in its plan the extent to which it has adopted the key prevention and mitigation strategies identified in the guidance.” 88 FR at 21200. Any updated LEA plan must be consistent with state law, including any applicable executive order, any agency emergency order, or any agency regulation or rule. Note specifically that LEA policies must comply with section 381.00316, Florida Statutes, and that any policies implemented after August 9, 2021 must comply with Florida Department of Health Rule 64DER21 -12, F.A.C., and any policies implemented after September 22, 2021 must comply with Florida Department of Health Rule 64DER21-15, F.A.C.

Each LEA must seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account prior to submission of the final plan to the Department within 60 days of the award. Upon the Department’s approval, the LEA shall post this updated plan on the LEA’s website within 90 days of the award.

[x] By checking this box, the LEA acknowledges the requirement that each LEA shall update its Plan for Safe Return of In-Person Instruction to reflect the requirements stated above, shall seek public comment on the updated plan and take such comments into account prior to the submission of the final plan to the Department within 60 days of the award. Upon the Department’s approval, the LEA shall post this updated plan on the LEA’s website within 90 days of the award.

**Part IV: Assurances**

 **The district must agree to ALL of the assurances by checking the corresponding boxes.**

[x]  **Assurance 1: LEA Periodic Plan Update with Public Comment.**  As required in the U.S. Department of Education’s Interim Final Rule, 88 FR 21195, the LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months, review and as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account. If at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations. Significantly, the Interim Final Rule “does not mandate that an LEA adopt the CDC guidance, but only requires that the LEA describe in its plan the extent to which it has adopted the key prevention and mitigation strategies identified in the guidance.” 88 FR at 21200. Any updated LEA plan must be consistent with state law, including any applicable executive order, any agency emergency order, or any agency regulation or rule. Specifically, LEA policies must comply with section 381.00316, Florida Statutes, and any policies implemented after August 9, 2021 must comply with Florida Department of Health Rule 64DER21 -12, F.A.C., and any policies implemented after September 22, 2021 must comply with Florida Department of Health Rule 64DER21-15, F.A.C.

[x]  **Assurance 2: Continue progress monitoring and interventions.** The district agrees to provide robust progress monitoring and requisite interventions must be extended to all students with tiered support for students who are performing below grade level and are not making adequate progress. Students who are receiving instruction through innovative teaching methods must transition to another teaching method if they fail to make adequate progress. The district agrees to provide monthly progress monitoring reports to parent/guardians for students identified as performing below grade level and/or demonstrating decline on the district’s progress monitoring system.

[x]  **Assurance 3: Allowable Uses of Funds.** The LEA will use funds for activities allowable under section 2001(e) of the CRRSA Act.

[x]  **Assurance 4: Maintenance of Equity.** The LEA will comply with all requirements relating to Maintenance of Equity, in accordance with section 2004(c) of the ARP Act.

[x]  **Assurance 5: Reporting.** The LEA will comply with all reporting requirements, and submit required reports to the Florida Department of Education at such time and in such manner and containing such information as the department may subsequently require.

[x]  **Assurance 6: Audits, Inspections or Examinations.** The LEA will cooperate with any examination of records with respect to such funds by making records available for inspection, production, and examination, and authorized individuals available for interview and examination, upon the request of (i) the Florida Department of Education, the Florida Auditor General; (ii) the Department and/or its Inspector General; or (iii) any other federal or state agency, commission, or department in the lawful exercise of its jurisdiction and authority.

**Acknowledgement**

Local Educational Agency Chief Executive Officer or Authorized Representative

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| **Name and title of person responsible for completion and submission**  |
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