

Connecticut ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Connecticut: \$1,106,696,657

ARP ESSER funding released to Connecticut on March 24, 2021: \$737,279,916

ARP ESSER funding released to Connecticut on August 26, 2021: \$369,416,741

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 509,058

Top Priorities within Connecticut's plan:

- Learning acceleration, academic renewal, and student enrichment
- Family and community connections
- Social, emotional, and mental health of students and school staff
- Strategic use of technology, staff development, and the digital divide
- Building safe and healthy schools

Highlights of Connecticut's Plan:

- **Returning to In-Person Learning:** The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) expects school districts to offer in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** CSDE will use ARP ESSER resources to support a model K-8 curricula. This will include high-quality instructional materials that will be made available on the State's Open Education Resources; two digital platforms to support learning acceleration and credit recovery; high-dosage tutoring to support students with specific learning disabilities; and expanded pathways to educator certification focused on multilingual educators, special education educators, educators of color, and male educators. Additionally, CSDE will partner with the juvenile justice system and contracted residential treatment programs to provide high-quality instructional resources, devices, and access to digital curricula to align with the public school setting.
- **Investing in Summer Learning and Expanded Afterschool Programs:** CSDE launched a competitive Expansion Grant program to provide up to \$25,000 to summer enrichment programs to expand capacity for summer 2021 and an Innovation Grant program to provide up to \$250,000 to summer enrichment programs that scale-up summer enrichment opportunities. For summer 2021, more than \$8.6 million was allocated to grant recipients. The state is taking a similar approach to fund comprehensive afterschool programs.
- **Supporting Students' and Educators Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs:** CSDE will use ARP ESSER funds to help address the mental health challenges of transitioning back to the classroom. CSDE will fund schools to partner with community-based mental health agencies to provide on-site mental health specialists to support students. Other potential investments include support for existing mental health providers, working with or creating more school-based health centers, and hiring or deploying more behavioral health staff.
- **Supporting Family Engagement:** CSDE will use ARP ESSER funding to support school district efforts to strengthen educators' engagement with families. CSDE is continually engaging with stakeholders, including community-based and parent organizations, to determine the best use of ARP ESSER funds to further family and community engagement and to support districts in their efforts. As CSDE implements the initiatives outlined in the state plan, additional future family

and community engagement efforts to gather input may include, but are not limited to, public forums, ThoughtExchanges, community visits, focus groups, and surveys.

- **When Connecticut's LEA Use of Funds Plans were Due: August 16, 2021**