

Accessing American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds for AT Devices, Services, and Training

A Closing the Gap Webinar
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Key Terms

American Rescue Plan (ARP)
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)
Allowable expenditures

Purpose

ARP ESSER funding will enable States (SEAs) and Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to support students who have been most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are likely to have suffered the most because of longstanding inequities... The thoughtful and timely use of these funds will have a lasting impact on our Nation's schools and help to address the inequities in resources, services, and opportunities available to our students.

Funding

ESSER I – The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
(Authorized in March 2020)
ESSER II – Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)
(Authorized in December 2020)
ESSER III – The American Rescue Plan (ARP)
(Authorized in March 2021)

Funding Priorities

- Ensure the health and safety of students, educators, and staff
- Address learning loss
- Support the social-emotional well-being of students
- Remove barriers to educational equity
- Make a lasting impact on the educational system

ARP and Assistive Technology

Students with disabilities are a group of students who have been recognized as being vulnerable to learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic. Assistive technology has been identified as an allowable expense. As an example, the state of Wisconsin released the following policy guidance to assist LEAs in designing their local plans for using ESSER funding:

Assistive Technology - ESSERF Funding
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/pdf/at-ESSERF-funding.pdf>

For More Information

To learn more about the impact of COVID-19 Learning Loss, visit:

The Consequences of Remote and Hybrid Instruction During the Pandemic

<https://cepr.harvard.edu/road-to-covid-recovery>

‘Not Good for Learning’

New research is showing the high costs of long school closures in some communities

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/05/briefing/school-closures-covid-learning-loss.html>

To learn more about ESSER, visit:

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief/>

To learn more about your state’s plan, visit:

State Plans

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief/stateplans/>

To learn more about the status of expenditures for your state, view the dashboard at:

Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) Transparency Portal

<https://covid-relief-data.ed.gov/>

For practical advice concerning ESSER funding and spending, visit:

The ESSER Dollar Journey

<https://www.allovue.com/esser>

To explore research supporting the assistive technology evidence base, visit:

Assistive Technology Rapid Literature Review

<https://www.knowledge-by-design.com/ukat/>