

# **COVID-19 Federal Emergency Funding Overview**

Jill Briggs Campbell, COVID-19 Federal Emergency Funds Project Manager

# Major COVID-19 Federal Relief Bills

- **CARES** (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act)- March 27, 2020
  - Includes ESSER, GEER, CRF
- **CRRSA** (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act)- December 27, 2020
  - Includes ESSER II, GEER II and GEER EANS, extension of CRF, and Child Nutrition Emergency Assistance and P-EBT administration grants
- **ARPA** (American Rescue Plan Act)- March 11, 2021
  - Includes ARP ESSER (ESSER III), GEER EAN II, IDEA supplement

# CARES Act Family Tree

## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)

- US Department of Education
- Funds directly to LEAs and AOE
- \$28 million to LEAs
- \$3 million to SEA
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/22

## Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)

- US Department of Education
- Funds to Governor's Office with AOE as administrator
- \$4.48 million to CTE centers
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/22

## Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

- US Department of Treasury
- \$103 million allocated by Vermont State Legislature to education entities through Acts 120 and 154
- 5 grants administered by AOE
- Limited range of uses
- Originally through 12/30/20, extended through 12/31/21
- \$15 million in unused funds

# CRRSA Family Tree

## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II

- US Department of Education
- Funds directly to LEAs and AOE
- \$114 million to LEAs
- \$13 million to SEA
- Same broad range of uses as ESSER I
- Emphasis on learning loss
- Goes through 9/30/23

## Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)

### GEER II

- US Department of Education
- Funds to Governor's Office with AOE as administrator
- \$1.9 million
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/23

### GEER Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS)

- US Department of Education
- Funds to Governor's Office with AOE as administrator
- \$4.28 million to nonpublic schools
- Goes through 9/30/23

## Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

- Deadline for use of funds extended through December 20, 2021
- AOE proposes to use the \$15 million in unused funds to continue the Indoor Air Quality grant

# ARPA Family Tree

## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III

- US Department of Education
- Funds directly to LEAs and AOE
- \$256 million to LEAs
- \$28 million to SEA
- Broad range of uses, but with specific mandates for how some funds must be used
- Goes through 9/30/24

## GEER Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS)

- US Department of Education
- Funds to Governor's Office with AOE as administrator
- \$2.6 million to support eligible independent schools
- Goes through 9/30/23

## IDEA Funding

- US Department of Education
- IDEA Section 611, Section 619, and IDEA part C funds.
  - Part B (611)- \$6,625,874
  - Part B (619)- \$472,522
  - Part C- \$1,040,479

# Updates on AOE COVID-19 Funding Work

- 3/20/21- ESSER I applications closed and as of 4/1 all but 4 (in review) have grant awards, totaling \$26,901,492
- 3/22/21-
  - ESSER II application released
    - Recovery/ESSER II Office Hours series every Wednesday (3/31-5/26)
  - [ESSER II Fiscal guidance](#)
  - [ARPA overview memo](#)
  - [Federal Education Funding Planning Guidance](#) (for Education Recovery)
- 3/23/21-GEER EANS application released for independent schools
  - Second Office Hours session scheduled for 4/12
- 3/23/21- [ESSER III Allocations](#) released to the field for planning
- 3/24/21- ESSER III partial award (\$190 million) received by AOE from US ED

# **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I, II and III**

# ESSER Family Tree

- Funded through US Department of Education: CARES, CRRSA, ARPA
- Allocation to LEAs based on Title I formulas (not part of Title I program)
- NOT a competitive grant
- No Supplement not Supplant requirement
- Broad range of allowable costs as determined by federal statute → AOE cannot tell LEAs how to spend their funds, only offer guidance and oversight

## ESSER I

- Part of CARES Act passed 3/27/20
- \$28 million to LEAs
- \$3.1 million to SEA
- Equitable Services to Independent Schools
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/22

## ESSER II

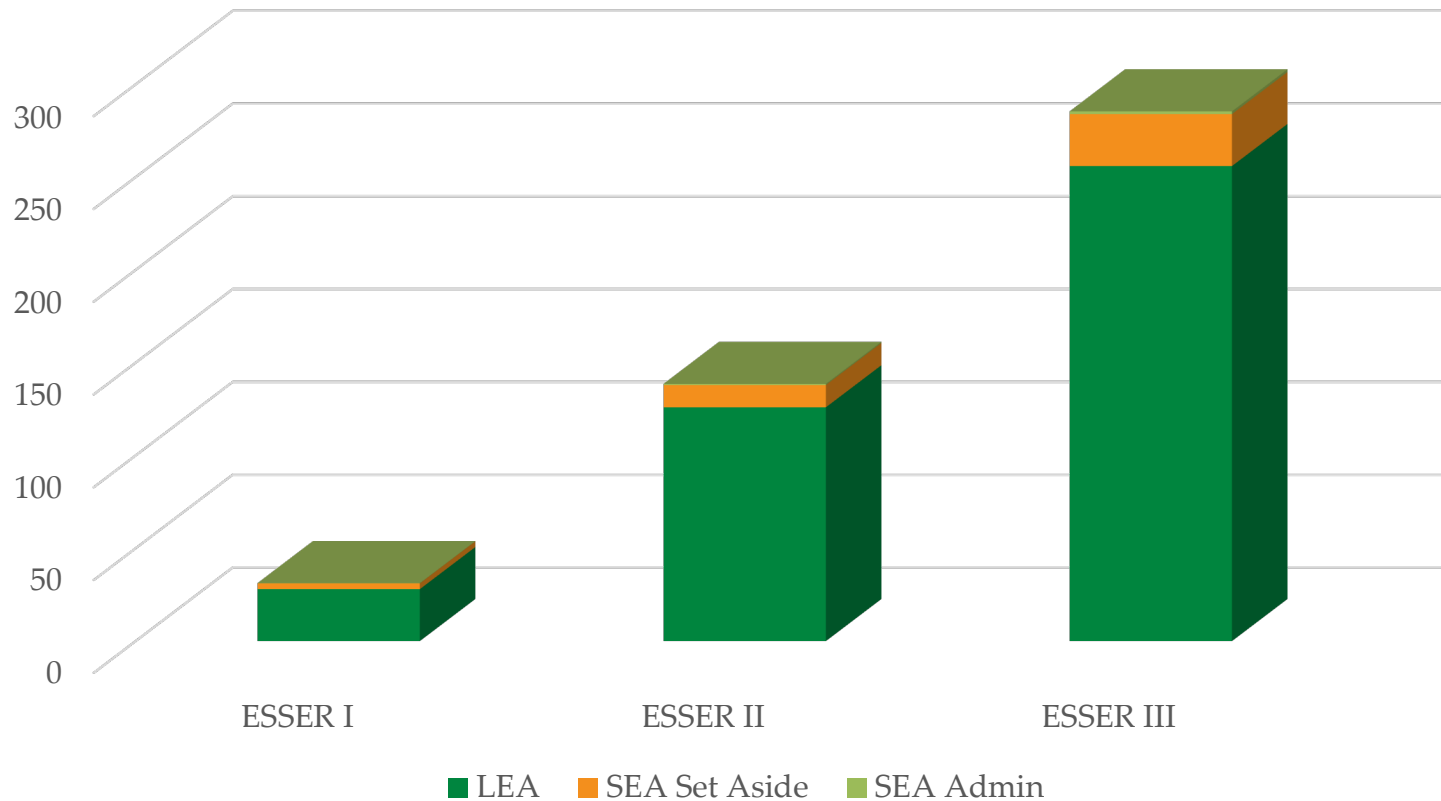
- Part of CRRSA passed 12/27/20
- \$114 million to LEAs
- \$12.6 million to SEA
- No Equitable Services
- Broad range of uses
- Funding Support for Recovery Plan
- Goes through 9/30/23

## ARP ESSER (ESSER III)

- Part of ARPA passed 3/11/21
- \$256 million to LEAs
- \$28 million to SEA
- No Equitable Services
- Broad range of uses
- Comes with specific mandates for use of funds
- Goes through 9/30/24



# ESSER I, II and III



	LEA	SEA Set Aside	SEA Admin
ESSER I	\$28,033,524	\$3,114,836	\$155,741
ESSER II	\$126,973,363	\$12,062,469	\$634,867
ESSER III	\$256,647,724	\$28,516,414	\$1,425,821
Totals	\$411,654,611	\$43,693,719	\$2,216,429

# Allowable uses for ESSER (just a sample)

14 total Allowable Cost categories ([ESSER II Fiscal guidance](#))

- Any activities authorized for Title, IDEA, Perkins, AEL\* (watch out for MOE)
- Activities to address the unique needs of high-risk student populations
- Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures (remote learning)
- Ed Technology
- Summer Learning and Afterschool programs
- Addressing learning loss
- Mental Health services and supports
- School facilities and repairs (HVAC, safe and health environments)
- Activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services

# ESSER I (CARES Act)

- Application released July 2020
- As of 4/1/21
  - All but 3 have approved grant awards (in review)
  - Total of \$26,901,492 awarded
  - \$2,645,385 in reimbursements made to LEAs
- SU/SDs have until September 30, 2022 to obligate these funds and can make amendments to adapt to new or changing needs
- Funds used mainly to respond to the emergency: payroll for additional staff time (custodians, food service), purchase of tech for remote learning, costs associated with meeting health guidance for reopening

# ESSER II (CRRSA)

- Application released March 22, 2021
- Deadline to apply is November 1, 2021
- ESSER II funds must be tracked separately from ESSER
- Period of Performance: pre-award costs back to March 13, 2020-September 30, **2023** (additional year past ESSER I)
  - All funds must be budgeted in an approved grant award by 1/5/2022
- No Equitable Services requirement
- Same Allowable Costs as ESSER: specific emphasis on measuring and addressing learning loss

## ESSER II and Recovery Planning

- AOE urges LEAs to use ESSER II funds to support their Recovery Plans
  - Socioemotional Functioning, Mental Health and Well-being
  - Student Engagement
  - Academic Achievement and Success

# ESSER III (ARPA)

- Total for Vermont: \$285,164,138
  - LEAs- \$ 256,647,724
  - SEA set aside- \$28,516,484 (of which a maximum of \$1,426,000 may be used for administration)
- Same allocation formula and similar uses to ESSER I and II.
- No Equitable Services (additional funding for GEER Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (GEER EANS) program)
- Period of performance from 3/13/20-9/30/24
- Funds for system approaches through strategic planning to address intractable challenges

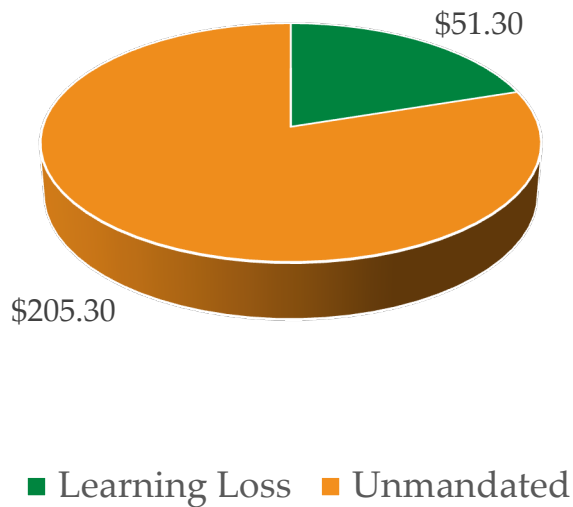
# ESSER III: Spending mandates and other requirements

Specific restrictions on use of funds to address student learning loss

- Spending mandate for LEAs (Total Allocation- \$256,647,724 million)
  - 20% (or \$51,329,544) set aside by LEAs for *“activities to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs.”*
- Within 30 days of receiving funds, LEAs must *“make publicly available on its website a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.”*
- Maintenance of Effort and Equity: The ARP (section 2004(b) and (c)) contains both State and LEA maintenance of equity requirements for each of FYs 2022 and 2023. The Department intends to provide additional guidance on these important requirements ([ARP ESSER Grant Award Assurances](#) (page 10))

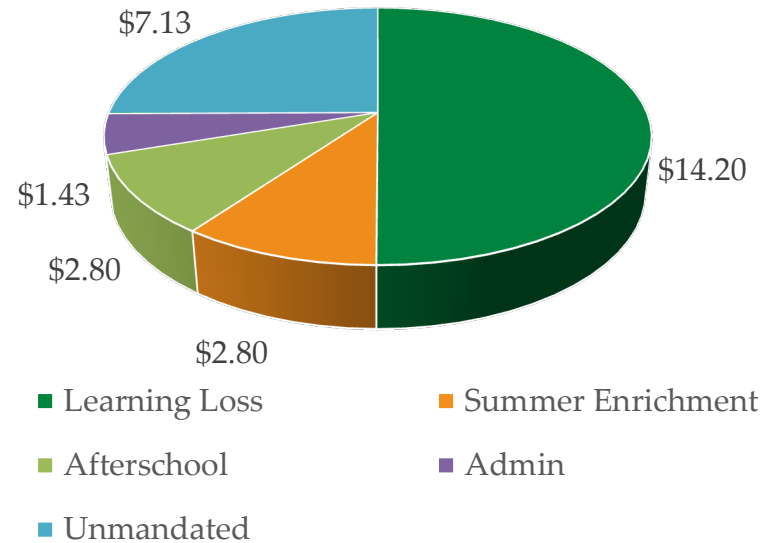
# ESSER III Spending Mandates

## LEA Spending Mandates



	LEAs
Learning Loss	\$51,329,544
Unmandated	\$205,,318,179

## SEA Set Aside Spending Mandates



	ESSER III SEA Set Aside
Learning Loss	\$14,258,000
Summer Enrichment	\$2,852,000
Afterschool	\$2,852,000
Admin	\$1,426,000
Unmandated	\$7,129,000

# ESSER AOE Set-aside Prioritization

## Guiding Principles for LEAs and AOE

- These are one-time funds and should be used in a strategic manner.
- The funds should be focused on education recovery.
- The recovery work in education will take time – these funds extend out into 2024 accordingly.
- AOE desires to maintain maximum flexibility to respond to needs that are being identified as part of the recovery planning process.
- AOE will look for opportunities to support regional, multi-district or system-wide approaches and programs.

## Areas for Strategic Recovery Investment

- Improve school facilities, including indoor air quality and other health and safety issues.
- Support integrated service delivery models in all regions.
- Address learning loss through expanding capacity for remote learning.



**Governor's Emergency  
Education Relief (GEER) Fund:  
GEER I, II and GEER EANS I and  
II**

# GEER Funds

- US Department of Education grants funds to state governors for the purpose of providing educational entities (LEAs, IHEs, other) emergency assistance due to COVID-19
- GEER I and II are for priorities as determined by the Governor's office- AOE is administering GEER I (CTE centers)
- GEER EANS I and II are specifically for eligible independent schools (in lieu of Equitable Services in ESSER II and III)- AOE will administer both of these programs.

# GEER I (CARES)

- CTE Centers received \$4,488,802 as part of the CARES Act
- Grant goes from July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2022
- As of 3/22/21
  - All 17 CTE centers have approved grant awards
  - All funds are budgeted (\$4,268,801.92)

# GEER II

- \$ 1,930,818
- Period of performance out to 9/30/23
- The Governor is waiting to allocate these funds to a specific purpose once we have identified any needs that are not addressed through other federal emergency funding.

# GEER EANS (and GEER EANS II)

- \$4,284,386 total
  - \$4,084,386 available to non-public schools
- Support for eligible independent schools with targeting for low-income students
- Allocation formula:
  - \$561.03 per K-12 pupil (2019-2020 data)
  - \$280.55 additional per low-income student
- Reimbursement and State-level procurement for a broad range of uses to respond to COVID-19
- GEER EANS II part of ARPA:
  - Additional \$2,628,000 (estimate)
  - Procurement only, no reimbursement

# FEMA Public Assistance

# FEMA

- 9/1/20- FEMA made schools generally ineligible for FEMA reimbursement
- 1/21/21- Biden administration ordered FEMA to expand eligibility to include schools in order "to provide for the safe opening and operation of eligible schools, child-care facilities..."
- Not backward looking: 1/21/21-9/30/21 (as of the date of the memo)
- Eligible costs *may* include: PPE, disinfecting supplies and COVID-19 testing
- AOE is awaiting specific guidance from FEMA and will communicate with schools when we know more

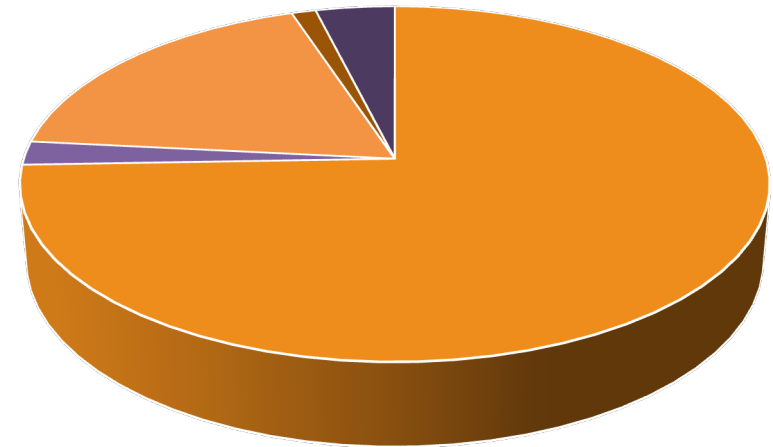
# Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)



# Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

- Legislature allocated \$103 million to 5 grants
- Broad range of uses must meet requirement of being COVID-19 necessary
- LEA and Approved Independent Schools grants were initially delayed by issue of FEMA
- \$15 million unused as of 12/30/20

Coronavirus Relief Fund Grants Administered by AOE (millions of dollars)



- LEA
- IAQ
- CN Equipment
- SFSP
- Ind Schools

Coronavirus Relief Fund	
LEA	\$73,451,395
SFSP	\$2,118,296
IAQ	\$18,050,000
Ind Schools	\$1,184,553
CN Equipment	\$3,851,846

# CRF: Indoor Air Quality Grant

- Total of \$16.3 million to schools (\$18.5 million total)
- AOE controls funds, but grant is managed and administered by Efficiency Vermont (Vermont Energy Investment Corporation)
- 314 schools served
  - 40 schools installed mechanical ventilation for the first time
- Grant-funded projects in these schools will improve indoor air quality for:
  - Over 62,000 K-12 students
  - Over 6,500 K-12 teachers
- At the end of December 2020, EVT had identified additional IAQ work that could be carried out and AOE supported the reallocation of \$15 million in unused CRF LEA funds to the continuation of this program.
  - The authorization for this program sits in H.315 in the General Assembly.

# Other Programs and Considerations

# Facilities and Construction with Federal Emergency Funds

- **ESSER Allowable Cost**
  - *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.*
  - *Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.*
  - However- per 34 CFR § 76.600 construction projects must be approved by the AOE **prior** to bidding and follow Davis-Bacon and other regulations (contact [Josh Souliere](#))
- Examples of potential construction/facilities improvements:
  - Refurbishing of space to accommodate more students to meet distancing guidelines.
  - Assess and address maintenance needs or facilities repairs or upgrades to mitigate exposure to environmental hazards or improve student learning by creating 21st century learning environments.
- The “American Jobs Plan” proposed by Biden administration includes significant funding for school facilities

# Other Federal Emergency Programs (just a sample)

- Child Nutrition- SNAP, P-EBT
- E-Rate and Internet/Broadband Access:
  - [Continuity of Learning: Broadband Supports and Resources for Families](#)
  - [Immediate Wi-Fi Hot Spot Assistance for Local Communities via Schools](#) (through mid-April)
- Child Care- Block grants for essential workers and stabilization grants for providers
- Mental Health
  - [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\) grant](#)

# Points of Contact in AOE

- ESSER- [Josh Souliere](#)
- GEER I- [Ruth Durkee](#)
- GEER EANS- [AOE GEER EANS Team](#)
- Indoor Air Quality Grant- [Jill Briggs Campbell](#)
- FEMA- [Jill Briggs Campbell](#)
- Child Nutrition- [Rosie Krueger](#)
- Broadband/Internet- [Lisa Helme](#)
- Accounting/GMS- [John Leu](#)
- Regulation/Compliance/Procurement- [Cassandra Ryan](#)
- General Questions- [AOE Ed Info](#)
- Questions on all federal emergency funds- [Jill Briggs Campbell](#)

# Helpful Links and Resources

- [COVID-19 Relief Funding](#) (CCSSO)
- [COVID-19 Federal Emergency Funds Webpage Hub](#) (AOE)
- [Federal Education Funding Planning Guidance](#) (AOE)
- [COVID-19 Education Recovery Webpage](#) (AOE)

# Questions?