# Federal Coronavirus Relief Funding

# for Education

### Overview

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed three stimulus bills that include funding for education: the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (March 2020); the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act (December 2020); and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act (March 2021).

Each stimulus bill provided funding for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund and the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund. The ESSER fund directs 90% of the total state allocation to local education agencies (LEAs) based on the Title I formula and the remaining 10% for a state reserve fund.

The GEER fund is a largely discretionary program for governors to direct emergency supports for early childhood through higher education. Under the CRRSA and ARP, funding is provided for emergency assistance to nonpublic schools through the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) grants. EANS is administered through state education agencies.

The CARES Act established the $150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to support states with COVID-19 related expenses incurred from March 1 to Dec. 30, 2020. Gov. Polis directed $510 million from the state's CRF to the Colorado Department of Education to be awarded to school districts, the Charter School Institute, the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and facility schools on a per pupil basis. Additionally, each Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in the state received $25,000.

**Funding by Grant Program**

The following table provides information about these grant programs.

|  | CARES ActESSER I | CRF | CRRSA ActESSER II | ARP ActESSER III |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **National funding** | $13,229,265,000 |  | $54,311,004,000 | $121,974,800,000 |
| **Colorado funding** | $120,993,782 | $510,000,000 | $519,324,311 | $1,166,328,632 |
| **Distribution method** | 90% ($108,894,404) to LEAs through the Title I formula  10% ($12,099,378) for state reserve | Per pupil funding to school districts, the Charter School Institute, the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and facility schools.  Each BOCES in the state received $25,000. | 90% ($467,391,880) to LEAs through the Title I formula  10% ($51,932,431) for state reserve | 90% ($1,049,695,769) to LEAs through the Title I formula with:   * At least 20% for learning opportunity loss   10% ($116,632,863) for state reserve with at least:   * 5% for learning opportunity loss * 1% for summer programs * 1% for afterschool programs |
| **Funding by LEA** | <http://www.cde.state.co.us/fedprograms/educationstabilizationfund> | <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefinance/coronavirusrelieffundallocations> | <http://www.cde.state.co.us/caresact/esseriipreliminaryallocations> | <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdefisgrant/esseriiiallocations> |
| **Fund Use Timeframe** | Through Sept. 30, 2022 | Extended to Dec. 30, 2021 | Through Sept. 30, 2023 | Through Sept. 30, 2024 |
| **Allowable uses** | Funds must be used to address the impact of COVID-19 on schools, including activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services, as well as existing federal programs\* | Funds must be used to facilitate compliance with COVID-19-related public health measures and mitigate the second-order effects of the virus | Same as ESSER I with emphasis on:   * Addressing learning loss * School facility repairs and improvements | Same as ESSER I with a requirement for LEAs to use at least 20% of funds to address the impact of COVID-19 on learning and for states to use part of the state reserve for learning opportunity loss, summer programming, and after-school opportunities |
| **Charter Schools and Non-Public Schools** | LEAs must provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools in the same manner as they do with Title funds.  CDE requests districts include their charter schools on equal footing with traditional schools when determining fund usage. | Section 22-30.5-112(3), C.R.S. requires districts to share CRF funds with charter schools on a per pupil basis. | There is no equitable services provision for non-public schools in ESSER II due to funding provided under the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools program. CDE requests districts include their charter schools on equal footing with traditional schools when determining fund usage. | There is no equitable services provision for non-public schools in ESSER III due to funding provided under the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools program. CDE requests districts include their charter schools on equal footing with traditional schools when determining fund usage. |

\*LEAs can use ESSER I and II funds for activities authorized by ESEA, IDEA, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Perkins CTE Act, or the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. For a complete list of allowable activities, please refer to <https://www.cde.state.co.us/caresact/crf-allowableexpenditures>.

**Monitoring and Reporting**

Districts are required to regularly report fund usage for ESSER and CRF to the department. The state is responsible for regularly monitoring fund usage to ensure funds are used appropriately. The department will collect information through its monitoring process to document and disseminate how districts use these funds to the public.

### WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

**Federal COVID-19 Education Funding - Colorado Department of Education:** [<https://www.cde.state.co.us/caresact>](https://www.cde.state.co.us/caresact)

**U.S Department of Education CARES Act webpage:** <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus/cares-act-emergency-relief>

**U.S Department of Education CRRSA webpage:** <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=>

**U.S. Department of Education ARP Act webpage:** <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-education-announces-american-rescue-plan-funds-all-50-states-puerto-rico-and-district-columbia-help-schools-reopen>