



*American Rescue Plan Brief  
March 2021*

**Context**

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the House passed the American Rescue Plan, which opens up \$30.35B for afterschool and summer learning programs across the United States.<sup>i</sup> The American Rescue Plan will make \$8.45 billion available at the state level and \$21.9 billion at the local level for afterschool and summer learning programs, which will help to support nearly 9 million students.<sup>ii</sup>

At the local level, allowable uses for funding include learning recovery, afterschool, summer and expanded learning programs. At the state level, funding is allocated for the following: \$1.22B set-aside for summer enrichment, \$1.22B set-aside for afterschool programs and \$6.1B specifically for learning recovery, including afterschool, summer and expanded learning.<sup>iii</sup>

**Distribution Timeline**

Funds will be distributed within the next 4-6 weeks and can be spent over 24-30 months until September 2023.<sup>iv</sup> The funds can cover summer 2021, 2022 and 2023 as well as afterschool programming in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.<sup>v</sup>

States can expect between 3-7 times current state funding for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers to come through for afterschool and summer learning programs.<sup>vi</sup>

**Specific Allocations<sup>vii</sup>**

Education Stabilization Fund (ESF)

- Provides additional funds for ESF programs previously authorized by the CARES Act and CRRSAA
- The funds would remain available through September 30, 2023

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

- \$800 million reserved to identify homeless children and youth and to provide them with wrap-around services and assistance needed to attend school and fully participate in school activities
- Remaining \$121,974,800,000 would be used to award ESSER Fund grants to state educational agencies based on their relative shares of grants awarded under Title I-A of the ESSA, as amended, for FY2020
- Each SEA would be required to use at least 90% of the funds awarded to make subgrants to LEAs in proportion to each LEA's share of actual Title I-A grants made to all LEAs in the state during FY2020
- LEAs required to use at least 20% of the funds they receive to address learning loss
- SEAs would be required to reserve at least 5% of the total grant award for activities to address learning loss. SEAs also would be required to reserve at least 1% of the total grant award for evidence-based summer enrichment program and at least 1% for "evidence-based comprehensive" afterschool programs

Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS)

- Provides \$2.75 billion for the EANS program
- Funds allocated to states based on proportional shares of children ages 5-17 from families with incomes at or below 185% of poverty
- Funds would be used by the SEA to provide services or assistance to non-public schools that “enroll a significant percentage of low-income students and are most impacted” by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Services or assistance to address educational disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic including personal protection equipment, educational technology, and reimbursement for the expense of certain services or assistance that the non-public school incurred after the date of the national emergency declaration
- Use of funds for reimbursement purposes would be prohibited

**Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)**

- Funds appropriated under the HEERF would be divided among four programs:
  - Direct grants to institutions of higher education
  - Direct grants to IHEs
  - Programs for minority serving institutions
  - The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE).
- Funds available would be allocated through the four programs listed above as follows:
  - 91% as direct grants to public and private nonprofit IHEs and postsecondary vocational institutions
  - 1% as direct grants to proprietary IHEs
  - 7.5% through MSI programs
  - 0.5% through FIPSE

**Estimated FY2021 State Grants Under the ESSER Fund, EANS, and HEERF IHE Grants Aggregated at the State Level Included in the Senate Substitute to H.R. 1319<sup>viii</sup>**

(Dollars in Thousands)

<b>State/Entity</b>	<b>ESSER Fund: Estimated State Grant Amount</b>	<b>EANS: Estimated State Grant Amount</b>	<b>HEERF: Estimated Allocations to IHEs</b>	<b>Total Estimated ESF Funding Provided to the State or IHEs in the State</b>	<b>Percentage Share of ESF Available</b>
Delaware	\$410,734	\$2,301	\$100,423	\$513,458	0.31%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$121,974,800</b>	<b>\$2,750,000</b>	<b>\$39,584,570</b>	<b>\$164,309,370</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Source:** Prepared by CRS based on CRS analysis of the Senate amendment to H.R. 1319 as passed by the prepared pursuant to the reconciliation directives included in S.Con.Res. 5; unpublished data provided by the U.S. Department of Education, Budget Service; 2015-2019 American Community Survey Public Use Micro Data Sample (PUMS); the CRRSAA direct grant allocations and methodology published by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/crrsaa.html>; the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS); and the Federal Student Aid Pell Grant Program Volume Reports.

## **Recommendations**

### Use ESSER II Funds to Address learning loss<sup>ix</sup>

- Increase Access for Special Populations
  - Focus on personalized instruction, family connections and involvement.
  - Any activity allowed under ESEA, IDEA, AEFLA, Perkins, or McKinney-Vento, which all focus on special populations in many ways, are considered allowable expenses.
- Support Social-Emotional Learning Programming
  - Intentionally embed long-term programs to provide mental health and well-being supports that can become part of your school's climate and culture.
- Support Out-Of-School-time Programming
  - Increase access to existing afterschool and summer learning programs, encouraging educator participation through stipends, and partnering with local organizations to offer programming.
- Assess Learning Loss and Support High-Quality Virtual Programming
  - Incorporate creative enrichment programming that can help students build social-emotional skills, renew interest in learning, and re-engage with school.

### Use ESSER II Funds to Expand Afterschool and Summer Programming<sup>x</sup>

- Expand the sites for summer and afterschool learning in school- community partnerships in or near schools or high need areas.
- Increase the number of students served, especially in existing high-quality programs.
- Restart programs that might have closed due to Covid-19.
- Implement strategies for re-connecting and re-engaging the students who need the programs the most.

### Use ESSER II Funds to Help Ensure Access to Expanded Learning Opportunities in Delaware<sup>xi</sup>

- Create or increase access to existing afterschool, summer, or intercession learning opportunities.
- Partner with local community organizations that provide afterschool and summer learning programs to offer youth more opportunities to engage and more access to caring adults.
- Provide on-going, sustainable opportunities for small group programming, including enrichment, tutoring, life-skills development, college and career exposure, and more.
- Increase family engagement and empowerment opportunities.

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<sup>i</sup> [http://afterschoolalliance.org/press\\_archives/ARP-Passes-Jodi-Grant\\_03102021.pdf?utm\\_source=sendinblue&utm\\_campaign=American\\_Rescue\\_Plan\\_announcement&utm\\_medium=email](http://afterschoolalliance.org/press_archives/ARP-Passes-Jodi-Grant_03102021.pdf?utm_source=sendinblue&utm_campaign=American_Rescue_Plan_announcement&utm_medium=email)

<sup>ii</sup> [http://afterschoolalliance.org/press\\_archives/ARP-Passes-Jodi-Grant\\_03102021.pdf?utm\\_source=sendinblue&utm\\_campaign=American\\_Rescue\\_Plan\\_announcement&utm\\_medium=email](http://afterschoolalliance.org/press_archives/ARP-Passes-Jodi-Grant_03102021.pdf?utm_source=sendinblue&utm_campaign=American_Rescue_Plan_announcement&utm_medium=email)

<sup>iii</sup> Afterschool Alliance, Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs 2021-23 and Beyond

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<sup>vii</sup> Congressional Research Service, May 8, 2021, Estimated FY2021 Grants to States and Institutions of Higher Education Under the Education Stabilization Fund Based on the Senate-Passed Substitute to H.R. 1319

<sup>viii</sup> Congressional Research Service, May 8, 2021, Estimated FY2021 Grants to States and Institutions of Higher Education Under the Education Stabilization Fund Based on the Senate-Passed Substitute to H.R. 1319

<sup>ix</sup> Afterschool Alliance, How Can Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Funds Address Learning Loss?

<sup>x</sup> Afterschool Alliance, Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs 2021-23 and Beyond

<sup>xi</sup> Afterschool Alliance, Supporting Afterschool and Summer Learning in Delaware with ESSER II Funding