Ohio | Department of Education

CCIP Note #464

Re: Availability of ESSER II Fund Application in the CCIP and ESEA Allocation Information
Date: February 18, 2021
To: Superintendents, Treasurers, Authorized Representatives, Fiscal Representatives and Consolidated Funding Application Contacts of ESSER Recipients

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (ESSER II)
In the Spring of 2020, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) awarded more than $13 billion in assistance to elementary and secondary schools through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

On December 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), 2021, Public Law 116-260, which provides an additional $54.3 billion for an ESSER II Fund.

The USED announced an additional **$1,991,251,095** in ESSER II funds to Ohio.

Ohio's allocation is based on the proportion of funds that Ohio received under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 in Federal Fiscal Year 2020.

This new funding is intended to help states and school districts safely reopen schools, measure and effectively address significant learning loss, and take other actions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the students and families who depend on our K-12 schools.

ESSER II Local Education Agency (LEA) Allocations

LEA allocations have been loaded into the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP). A PDF version of the ESSER II LEA allocations can be found HERE.

The ESSER II LEA allocations were determined from the proportion of funds that LEAs received under Part A of Title I of the ESEA of 1965 in the most recent fiscal year, in accordance with guidance from the USED.

The allocations are subject to change over the period of availability and duration of the grant depending on various factors such as additional direction and guidance from the U.S. Department of Education and/or set aside amounts required for new and significantly expanded charter schools.

ESSER II LEA Application Available in the CCIP

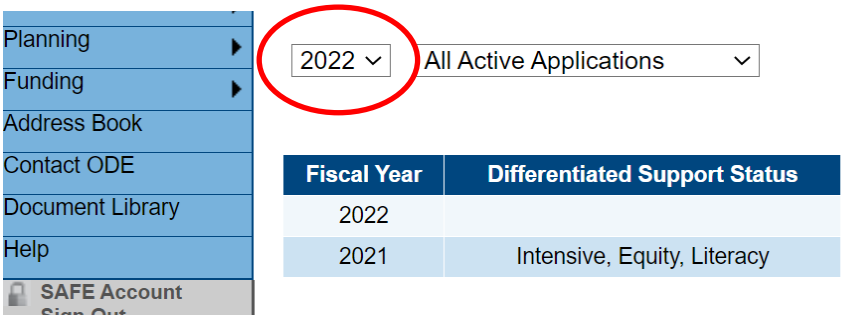
The ESSER II LEA application is available within the CCIP. The application is housed in **Fiscal Year 22 (FY22)**.

District staff assigned to the following OEDS roles will have access to work on the application in the CCIP: Superintendent, Treasurer, CCIP Fiscal Representative, CCIP Authorized Representative and Data Entry Funding - CCIP. Access to the CCIP is through the OH|ID portal.

The application is titled ESSER II. Please note that a PDF of the template application may be found in the CCIP Document Library HERE.

To access the ESSER II application within the CCIP, select Funding > Funding Applications. Choose "FY22"

from the Fiscal Year dropdown:



Important Considerations

- ESSER I and ESSER II funds must be accounted for separately. The Ohio Department of Education set up the ESSER II grant in FY22 so that the funds may be tracked separately within the CCIP. In addition, LEAs should ensure that all ESSER I and ESSER II expenditures are accounted for separately.

- The allowable uses of ESSER II funds are the same as ESSER I. Note that the "additional" LEA allowable uses of funds under ESSER II (addressing learning loss, preparing schools for reopening, and testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings) were already permitted under the CARES Act. See a full listing of ESSER I and II allowable activities HERE.

- LEAs should plan to use all remaining ESSER I funds before making use of the ESSER II funds.

- There may be ESSER activities that the LEA wants to implement immediately. If the LEA still has unspent ESSER I funds, it should submit an ESSER I application revision for the proposed activity. The "additional" allowable uses of funds under ESSER II (addressing learning loss, preparing schools for reopening, and testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings) are not listed on the ESSER I Budget Details. However, an LEA may select *"Other activities necessary to maintain the operations and continuity of services in the LEA and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA"* and describe the proposed activity in the Activity Box of the ESSER I Budget Details.

- ESSER II funds may be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020, when the national emergency was declared.

Special Consideration
Governor DeWine is asking schools and districts to design plans to address any learning opportunities that may have been lost due to the coronavirus pandemic. He is asking that those plans be available to the public no later than April 1. The Department encourages districts to consider using ESSER II funds for the activities to address those plans such as extending the school day and summer programming. A message regarding the Governor's request and frequently asked questions is available HERE.

Additional Supports

ESSER I and II Allowable Activities: A document listing the allowable uses of ESSER funds can be found HERE. The allowable uses can also be found on the CCIP ESSER II application, Budget Details page.

ESSER II Frequently Asked Questions: The Ohio Department of Education has developed an ESSER II

Frequently Asked Questions document. The ESSER II FAQ can be found HERE.

USED Resources: The main source of information about the CARES Act and ESSER Fund is the USED. The Office of Federal Programs will provide information as it is received. The USED COVID-19 website may be accessed HERE. Key information documents are below and housed within the CCIP Document Library.

Resources:

- ESSER II Allocations
- ESSER I and II Allowable Activities
- ESSER II Frequenty Asked Questions
- Proposed ESSER II Application
- USED ESSER II Cover Letter
- USED ESSER II Fact Sheet
- USED ESSER II State Allocations

Reallocation of ESEA Consolidated Funds: Final FY21 Title I-A, Title II-A, Title III, Title IV, Title V and IDEA

The Ohio Department of Education has completed Federal Program reallocations. This change will affect allocations in Title I-A, Title II-A, Title III, Title IV, Title V and IDEA grants, and impact nonpublic equitable service amounts.

Any changes in allocations may require the district to complete a budget revision. Affected districts in Final Approved status may automatically be changed to "Revision Started" and will receive an email generated through the CCIP indicating the status change.

Districts may need to adjust nonpublic equitable service amounts due to this reallocation. Districts that have questions regarding equitable services to non-chartered, non-tax schools should contact their consultant or Chantelle Carter, Nonpublic Ombudsman (chantelle.carter@education.ohio.gov).

If you have any further questions regarding any changes to allocations for Title I-A, Title II-A, Title III, Title IV, Title V or IDEA grants, please contact your consultant in the Office of Federal Programs.

IDEA-B Special Education and/or IDEA Early Childhood Special Education Consortia fiscal agents may receive an automatic History Log note regarding a refund while allocations are being adjusted. Once the final allocation amounts are processed and the consortium relationship is re-established, this History Log note should no longer be applicable. If you have concerns, please contact Sarah James, Assistant Director in the Office for Exceptional Children (sarah.james@education.ohio.gov).

Districts that are providing Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) or that are mandated to provide Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) should review the amount reserved for early intervening this year. With the reallocation of the FY21 Part B funds, the allowable/mandated 15% amount will have changed. Districts must review the amount reserved for early intervening to assure that the percentage of IDEA Part B funds, or the mandated 15% requirement of IDEA Part B funds, is calculated and budgeted appropriately. If you have questions, please contact Mark Lynskey, Education Program Specialist, in the Office for Exceptional Children (mark.lynskey@education.ohio.gov).

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The Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) FY2021-2022

The Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP) **Master Eligibility Spreadsheet** has been provided by max.gov and is available on the Office of Federal Programs REAP website found HERE. There is also information on this site regarding district typology, NCES locale codes, Ohio Alternative Definition for Rural, Rural Low Income School (RLIS)/Title initiative, and Small Rural School Achievement Program (SRSA).

All districts should check the Master Eligibility Spreadsheet for accuracy of reported information as this can affect RLIS and SRSA eligibility and allocations. If a discrepancy is found on the FY21-22 Master Eligibility Spreadsheet for your LEA, please contact Amy Hill at amy.hill@education.ohio.gov or 614-387-7562.

In early February, REAP sent one designated LEA contact at each LEA an email invitation that contained a direct link to its unique application and estimated SRSA awards. The invitation was sent from U.S. Department of Education no-reply.survey@max.gov. It should take the LEA contact no more than 30 minutes to fill out and submit the application, which only includes information that is required for the SRSA grant application. RLIS grant awards will be allocated in the CCIP as Title V-B.

After submitting the application, an LEA will receive a confirmation email with a list of important next steps including how to check its DUNS number registration status in SAM.gov and how to confirm its access to grant funds in G5.gov. Deadline for SRSA application is April 30, 2021. Questions pertaining to SRS funds and the G5 system should be directed to reap@ed.gov.

If you have questions, contact your consultant in the Office of Federal Programs, or email federalprograms@education.ohio.gov.