Ohio | Department of Education

CCIP Note #465

Re: Delay in ESSER Reimbursements
Date: March 3, 2021
To: Superintendents, Treasurers, Authorized Representatives, Fiscal Representatives and Consolidated Funding Contacts of ESSER Recipients

Delay in Reimbursements

This message is for recipients of grant funding under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). There will be a slight delay in fulfilling reimbursement requests from the fund. The requests for reimbursement received to date have temporarily exhausted the available appropriation. Projecting the reimbursement request pattern has been challenging. The Department is working to resolve this issue as quickly as possible and seeking additional appropriation authority. We expect resolution within the next few weeks. Earlier today, two bills were introduced in the House and Senate to ensure that schools will resolve this appropriation deficiency (HB 170 and SB 111). Please continue to spend against your approved ESSER budgets and submit Project Cash Requests as you normally would.

For districts concerned with carrying a temporary negative cash balance in their ESSER Fund (507), this may be addressed by Revised Code Section 3315.20. This law allows a district to have a deficit in any special fund if both of the following conditions are met:

A. A request for payment pending payment with the state is sufficient to cover the amount of the deficit and there is a reasonable likelihood that payment will be made
B. The unspent and unencumbered balance in the district's general fund is greater than the aggregate of deficit amounts in all of the district's special funds

We apologize for any inconvenience this creates and we appreciate your patience as we work with our partners in the General Assembly to resolve it. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Grants.Management@education.ohio.gov.