

SOUTH CAROLINA **FACT SHEET**



COVID-19 Relief Funding

FOR K-12 EDUCATION



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The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE)

is currently engaged in unprecedented activity to support students and communities as they mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects upon student learning and wellbeing. In 2020, Congress approved two major COVID-19 relief packages, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security "CARES" Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations "CRRSA" Act, which contain programs that support states and school districts in responding to the national pandemic. In March of 2021, Congress approved additional funding under the American Rescue Plan Act. Below is a summary of the primary K-12 funding streams and implementing provisions of these three major relief packages.

CARES ACT, EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND – MARCH 2020

	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief "ESSER" I	Governor's Emergency Education Relief "GEER" I
AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	\$216,311,158 by formula to the SCDE, in proportion to relative share of FY 2019 ESEA Title I, Part A awards (based primarily on census poverty data and cost of education.) District allocations here .	\$48,467,924 by formula to Governor McMaster, 60% on basis of population, and 40% on basis of poverty.
STRUCTURE	The SCDE may reserve up to 10% for emergency needs, including up to 0.5% of total state allocation for administration, then must allocate remaining 90% to school districts (LEAs) on the basis of relative share of FY 2019 Title I, Part A awards.	Subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) significantly impacted by COVID, institutions of higher education (IHEs) significantly impacted by COVID, and/or other essential "education related entities."
LOCAL USES OF FUNDS	Very broad, including any activity authorized by major K-12 education authorizations (ESEA, IDEA, AEFLA, Perkins, McKinney-Vento) and other enumerated uses of funds .	Very broad, to support LEAs and IHEs "on-going functionality" as well as LEAs, IHEs, and education-related entities deemed essential to carry out emergency educational services and other activities.
PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY	May be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020. Available for obligation through September 30, 2022. <i>Please note the law itself says funds are available through September 30, 2021, but education programs, including ESSER, are subject to another law called the Tydings Amendment, which extends the period of availability by one additional year.</i>	May be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020. Available for obligation through September 30, 2022.
STATUS	All ESSER I funds have been obligated by the SCDE school districts and are in the process of expending through grants management processes.	Governor McMaster has announced allocations of all GEER I funds for K-12 and higher education.
ACCOUNTABILITY	Districts submit quarterly reports by category that include amount claimed and activities completed. The SCDE conducts regular monitoring to ensure compliance. The SCDE reports monthly and annually to the USED.	

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CRRSA, EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND II – DECEMBER 2020

	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief “ESSER” II	Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools “EANS” I
AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	\$940,420,782 by formula to the SCDE, in proportion to relative share of FY 2020 ESEA Title I, Part A awards (based primarily on census poverty data and cost of education.) District allocations here .	\$61,070,456 to Governor McMaster. \$21,089,129 by GEER I formula (60% population and 40% poverty); \$39,981,327 for EANS (see below) on the basis of relative number of children in the state aged 5 through 17 at or below 185% of poverty.
STRUCTURE	Same as ESSER I: The SCDE reserves up to 10% for emergency needs, including 0.5% of total state allocation for administration, then must allocate remaining 90% to school districts (LEAs) on the basis of relative share of FY 2020 Title I, Part A awards.	\$21,089,129 consistent with GEER I: Subgrants to institutions of higher education, school districts, and/or “education related entities.” \$39,981,327 reserved for new (EANS). Governors submit applications to USED to receive funds, must designate SEA to administer program. Nonpublic schools apply directly to SEAs to receive services.
LOCAL USES OF FUNDS	Very broad, consistent with ESSER I, including any activity authorized by major K-12 education authorizations (ESEA, IDEA, AEFLA, Perkins, McKinney-Vento) and other enumerated uses of funds . Express authority for use of funds for digital learning and connectivity. New express authority to address learning loss, school facility repairs and improvements, and improving indoor air quality in school facilities, but USED clarified that these are also allowable uses under ESSER I.	GEER II, general: Very broad, consistent with GEER I. EANS reservation: Also very broad, to address diverse conditions affecting students in nonpublic schools. SEAs must prioritize services or assistance to non-public schools that enroll low-income students and are most impacted by COVID. Public agencies required to maintain control of funds and title to equipment.
PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY	May be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020. Available for obligation through September 30, 2023. <i>Please note the law itself says funds are available through September 30, 2022, but education programs, including ESSER, are subject to another law called the Tydings Amendment, which extends the period of availability by one additional year.</i>	GEER II: May be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020. Available for obligation through September 30, 2023. EANS: SEAs must obligate all funds for benefit of nonpublic schools within 6 months of receipt; any funds that remain unobligated after 6 months revert to GEER II.
STATUS	The SCDE has received ESSER II allocation and is in the process of allocating funds to LEAs as they submit and receive approval on their spending plans.	South Carolina has received GEER II allocation. The SCDE has received EANS allocations, and is reviewing non-public school allocations.
ACCOUNTABILITY	Districts submit quarterly reports by category that include amount claimed and activities completed. The SCDE conducts regular monitoring to ensure compliance. The SCDE reports monthly and annually to the USED.	

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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN, EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND III – March 2021

	ARP - ESSER III	ARP - EANS II
AMOUNT APPROPRIATED	<p>\$2,112,051,000</p> <p>District allocations here.</p>	<p>\$41,751,000 for EANS.</p> <p>(GEER not funded under ARP.)</p>
STRUCTURE	<p>\$2,112,051,000 to the SCDE using same general method as ESSER I and II: by formula to (SEAs), in proportion to relative share of FY 2020 ESEA Title I, Part A awards. SEAs must reserve at least the following amounts from the total state allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5% for interventions to address learning loss • 1% for summer enrichment programs • 1% for comprehensive afterschool programs <p>The SCDE may reserve up to 2.5% for emergency needs and 0.5% for administration costs.</p> <p>The SCDE must allocate at least 90% to school districts (LEAs) on the basis of relative share of FY 2020 Title awards.</p>	<p>\$41,751,000 in additional funding for EANS with modifications. Governors apply to USED to receive funds.</p> <p>USED will provide additional information about the mechanisms under which states will administer EANS II and its relationship to EANS I.</p>
LOCAL USES OF FUNDS	<p>Very broad, consistent with ESSERs I and II, including any activity authorized by major K-12 education authorizations (ESEA, IDEA, AEFLA, Perkins) and other enumerated uses of funds. New express authority to use ESSER funds to develop strategies and implement public health protocols consistent with CDC guidance to extent practicable, for the reopening and operation of school facilities. USED clarified that this is also allowable under ESSER I and II.</p> <p>LEAs must reserve not less than 20% of their allocation to address learning loss.</p>	<p>Very broad, consistent with EANS I, to address diverse conditions affecting students in nonpublic school.</p> <p>Participating non-public schools must enroll a "significant percentage of low-income students" and be "most impacted" by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>SEAs cannot reimburse nonpublic schools for expenses (as they can under EANS I).</p> <p>Public agencies required to maintain control of funds and title to equipment.</p>
PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY	<p>May be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020. Available for obligation through September 30, 2024.</p> <p><i>Please note the law itself says funds are available through September 30, 2021, but education programs, including ESSER, are subject to another law called the Tydings Amendment, which extends the period of availability by one additional year.</i></p>	<p>EANS: USED will provide additional information about the mechanisms under which states will administer EANS II and its relationship to EANS I.</p>
STATUS	<p>The SCDE will develop a state plan using stakeholder input that will then be put out for public comment. LEAs must submit an application to the SCDE for approval.</p>	<p>As of March 17, 2021, USED is working to finalize plans to make allocations to states</p>
ACCOUNTABILITY	<p>Districts submit quarterly reports by category that include amount claimed and activities completed. The SCDE conducts regular monitoring to ensure compliance. The SCDE reports monthly and annually to the USED.</p>	

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TOTAL ESSER & GEER FUNDS, MARCH 2020 – MARCH 2021

\$ 3.3
BILLION

(\$3,268,783,427)

ESSER I, ESSER II, &
ARP-ESSER formula grants
to states & school districts

\$ 327
MILLION

ESSER SEA
reservations

\$ 151
MILLION

(\$151,289,380)

GEER I, GEER II, & GEER III
including \$81.7 million
(\$81,732, 327) under EANS



The SCDE will update this summary as
additional information becomes available.