



ESSER SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT

April 9, 2024

PURPOSE:

The ESSER Sustainability Toolkit provides data and resources to understand the effectiveness of ESSER-funded programs. It can help districts:

- Focus on data-driven decision-making,
- Prioritize initiatives that have positively impacted student achievement, and
- Employ a comprehensive budget strategy to optimize resources, prioritize essential services, and identify alternative funding opportunities.

Evidence-Based Program Selection

How do you decide?

- Identify projects/initiatives implemented using ESSER funds.
- Gather outcome data for each.
- Use the ROI process to determine which ESSER-funded projects/initiatives had a proven impact on student achievement.

Return on Investment (ROI) Resources

- [ROI Worksheet](#)
- [ROI Worksheet Instructions](#)
- [State Report Cards](#)
- [SC READY and EOC data](#)
- District and School formative and summative assessment data
- District and School project data
- [The Process of Measuring Academic Return on Investment \(ROI\): A Guide for School Districts - \(ecragroup.com\)](#)
- [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief \(ESSER\) Funding - SCDE](#)



ESSER Funds
Elementary and Secondary
School Emergency Relief

Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB)

ZBB Resources

- [CCSSO Toolkit on Maximizing Funds](#)
- [NCDPI Crosswalk](#)
- [New Jersey Maximizing Federal Funds Scenarios](#)
- [ROI Worksheet](#)
- [ROI Worksheet Instructions](#)

What is it?

- Used across many industries to support alignment of expenditures with strategic plans and goals.
- Useful in reducing previous budgets by 4-6%.
- Budget managers are asked to start with a budget of \$0 to critically evaluate each expenditure for: need, efficiency, and alignment to strategic goals.
- Requires consideration of multiple stakeholders and takes time.
- Can be used to identify support for ESSER expenditures beyond ESSER funding window.

Efficiency & Innovation

What are ways to Increase it?

- Reevaluate vendor contracts.
- Explore shared services with other districts.
- Invest in technology that streamlines administrative processes.
- Eliminate duplicate services.

Stakeholder Communication

How to create transparent stakeholder engagement?

- Engage teachers, staff, students, parents, and the wider community to set clear expectations about the change ahead.
- Communication will be key to managing smooth transitions and maintaining trust within our communities.
- [ESSER Plan Communication](#) - Education Resource Strategies
- [Oregon District ESSER Outreach](#)

Outcome-Focused Alternative Funding Resources

- [Braiding and Blending Federal Funds: A Step-by-Step Guide for Illinois Schools](#) (March 2023)
- [Understanding and Combining ESSER and Federal Funds](#) (nj.gov)
- [How Traditional U.S. Department of Education Grants Can Help Sustain ESSER](#) (CCSSO)
- [Sustaining Recovery Investments with Federal Formula Funds: Student Wellbeing and Engagement](#) (CCSSO)
- [Sustaining Recovery Investments with Federal Formula Funds: Recruiting and Retaining Educators](#) (CCSSO)



Questions?

Contact the Office of
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