



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents of Charter Schools

FROM: John R. Payne
Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal Programs and Accountability
Tonia Mallett Smith
Director, Office of Emergency Programs

DATE: June 28, 2021

RE: ARP ESSER Funds, Charter Schools, and Schools of Innovation

The South Carolina Department of Education reminds all traditional school districts to conduct meaningful consultation with charter schools and/or schools of innovation within their jurisdiction as it relates to its American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) plan and the uses of these funds. These charter schools and/or schools of innovation are public schools under the authority of the district and must be consulted and considered in the development of the district's ARP ESSER plan.

With respect to the development of its ARP ESSER plan, the district should ensure that it thoroughly reviews all data so that ARP ESSER funds target those students, faculty, and schools most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In so doing, available funds may be different among and within schools, as the needs of individual schools may differ.

As with all federal awards, districts must comply with all provisions outlined in each federal Grant Award Notification, including all terms and conditions and assurances. As such, adequate documentation must be maintained to substantiate the allowability, reasonableness, necessity, and allocability of all expenditures incurred by the district including its charter schools and schools of innovation.

If the district needs additional technical assistance in developing its ARP ESSER plan, please e-mail scesser@ed.sc.gov.