

Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund: An overview of Nevada's Statewide Priorities and Activities

Presented on May 21, 2020



ESSER Fund Overview

- Sponsored by the United States Department of Education (USDOE)
- Intended to provide school districts and charter schools with emergency relief funds to address the impact of COVID-19
- Nevada received \$117,185,045
- **Nevada Department of Education (NDE) must allocate 90% of funds to LEAs according to the FY19 Title I Methodology or \$105,466,540**
- NDE may set aside 10% or \$11,718,505 for statewide activities
 - 0.5% for administrative cost
 - 9.5% for statewide activities or ***\$11,132,580***
- Funds must be expended by September 30, 2022

ESSER Fund Allowable Uses

- Response efforts and preparation efforts related to COVID-19, such as the coordination of school districts and local health departments, as well as the procurement of materials to mitigate the spread or impact of infectious diseases
- Professional development for educators related to distance education as well as sanitation and infectious disease protocols
- Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population
- Procurement of educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment
- Provision of mental health services and supports
- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care
- Activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency
- *This list represents a summary of allowable uses and is not exhaustive*

NDE's Statewide Priorities in Response to COVID-19

- 1) Access to high-quality professional development in delivering distance education for educators
- 2) Access to high-quality instructional materials through distance education for educators and students
- 3) Access to technological capacity for educators, students, and families
- 4) Safe, efficient, and equitable re-opening of school buildings
- 5) Support of parents, families, and communities
- 6) Social and emotional support of students in response to COVID-19
- 7) Access to adult education and workforce development opportunities

Applicant Competing Priorities

A clear articulation of these priorities may contribute to a more viable funding application:

- *Focus on highest-need students (low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, foster care youth and neglected and delinquent youth in detention centers and prisons)*
- *Focus on evidence-based interventions and alignment to state and/or district level improvement plans*
- *Focus on collection of data and evaluation to inform continuous improvement*
- *Focus on providing services and resources to students, parents, and families in **more than 1** Nevada county*

Nevada Department of Education ESSER Funding Categories

High Quality Professional Development

High Quality Instructional Materials

Technological Capacity

High Quality Professional Development: Approximately \$2,000,000 Available for Funding

Examples of projects may include:

- Professional development focused on distance education for educators (teachers, administrators, support staff, specialized instructional support personnel)
 - Professional development is evidence-based and meets the federal and national standards for effectiveness
 - Data is collected and leveraged to inform continuous improvement
- Professional development focused on the social and emotional well-being of students and educators through blended learning
 - Professional development is evidence-based and meets the federal and national standards for effectiveness
 - Data is collected and leveraged to inform continuous improvement
- Partnership with Regional Professional Development Programs (RPDP) for systemic professional development around blending learning and distance education

Eligible entities include:

- Nevada school districts, charter schools
- Nevada Institutions of Higher Education
- Nevada non-profit community-based entities focused on PreK-12 education
- Other Nevada state agencies/state run entities that provide services to PreK-12 students



High Quality Instructional Materials: Approximately \$2,000,000 Available for Funding

Examples of projects may include:

- Investment in instructional materials that are focused on distance education
 - Instructional materials are aligned to Nevada's Academic Content Standards
- Investment in early learning instructional materials for distance education
 - Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 3
- Investment in assessments of student learning for distance education
- Investment in blended learning and competency-based education frameworks and infrastructure of instructional delivery through distance education
- Investment in adult education programs for distance education

Eligible entities may include:

- Nevada school districts and charter schools



Technological Capacity: Approximately \$7,000,000 Available for Funding

Examples of projects may include:

- Increase access to mobile hotspots for individuals and communities (libraries, schools, buses, etc.)
- Procurement of devices with built in hotspots for students
- Investment in school-based or community-based infrastructure for connectivity
- Investment in infrastructure for virtual communication with students, educators, and families

Eligible entities include:

- Nevada school districts and charter schools
- Nevada non-profit community-based entities focused on PreK-12 education



Anticipated Application and Funding Timeline

- Applications may be available on June 18, 2020
- Applications may be submitted by July 31, 2020
- Funding awards may be announced September 1, 2020
- Subgrants are anticipated to be effective on September 15, 2020
- As the anticipated application timeline draws closer, the Department will provide updated information