

Alabama ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Alabama: \$2,021,518,529

ARP ESSER funding released to Alabama on March 24, 2021: \$1,346,713,644

ARP ESSER funding released to Alabama on August 12, 2021: \$674,804,885

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 734,559

Top Priorities within Alabama's Plan:

- Accelerating learning, particularly for students in grades K-3 to address the academic impact of lost instructional time
- Increasing learning opportunities, particularly for students most impacted by the pandemic
- Addressing mental health and social-emotional needs

Highlights of Alabama's Plan:

- **Returning to In-Person Learning in 2021:** The state expects all schools to operate in-person in the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** Partnerships between school districts and county health department officials have included screenings and vaccinations to eligible school community members. The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) has used federal relief funds for salaries or wages for healthcare professionals or aides to provide COVID-19 response and mitigation services in schools.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** ALSDE will use ARP ESSER funds in 2021 to support LEAs to address students most impacted by the pandemic via Summer Reading Camps for grades K-3. The Summer Reading Camps will provide direct, explicit, and systematic reading intervention services and supports to improve any identified area of reading deficiency. At a minimum, 70 hours of scientifically based reading instruction and intervention must take place.
- **Supporting Students' and Educators Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs:** To support improved mental health and social emotional needs, ALSDE will further prioritize comprehensive wraparound services within a multi-tiered support system (MTSS). ALSDE will continue to provide detailed guidance to districts for utilizing federal funds to increase student access to key support staff and expand grant funding to districts. These funds will support the hiring and supplies of key support staff including nurses, school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and other support professionals.
- **When Alabama's LEA Use of Funds Plans will be Due:** August 23, 2021