Arizona ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Arizona: $2,582,098,697
ARP ESSER funding released to Arizona on March 24, 2021: $1,721,399,131
ARP ESSER funding released to Arizona on October 7, 2021: $862,699,566
2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 1,112,256

Top Priorities within Arizona’s plan:
- Enrichment and reinforcement of learning
- Mental, behavioral, and physical health support for students and educators
- Student and family re-engagement and support for critical transition periods

Highlights of Arizona’s Plan:
- Returning to In-Person Learning in 2021: Arizona schools have returned to in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. ADE launched the Ready for School campaign, which ran from June 2021 through September 2021, to encourage students and families to re-enroll in their public schools. The campaign used videos and advertisements to highlight the benefits of in-person instruction. ADE also created a hotline to support parents through the re-enrollment process.

- Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations: Despite an ongoing court battle over the legality of mandating universal indoor masking, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) continues to stress the importance of universal and correct use of masks and encourages districts to work with their school communities to ensure consistent and correct usage of masks to the greatest extent possible.

- Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time and Expanding Summer and Afterschool Programs: ADE will implement evidence-based interventions that focus on three priorities: enrichment and reinforcement of learning; mental, behavioral, and physical health support for students and educators; and student and family re-engagement and support.

- Supporting the Educator Workforce: ADE has partnered with the state’s three universities and has created a dedicated Educator Recruitment and Retention team to support schools with recruitment, retention, and professional development strategies in partnership with local communities. This team has also developed and implemented Principal and Supervisor of Principal professional learning academies to build leadership capacity in school districts and charter schools to provide support for students and educators.

When Arizona’s LEA Use of Funds Plans will be due: November 1, 2021