

Colorado ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Colorado: \$ 1,167,153,961

ARP ESSER funding released to Colorado on March 24, 2021: \$777,552,421

ARP ESSER funding released to Colorado on November 4, 2021: \$389,601,540

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 883,199

Top Priorities for Colorado:

- Accelerating learning for students most impacted by the pandemic to address opportunity and achievement gaps
- Increasing student engagement through expanding learning opportunities
- Strengthening state capacity to collect, secure, process, and report on student data

Highlights of Colorado's Plan:

- **Returning to In Person Learning in 2021 and Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** The majority of Colorado schools are offering fully in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. To ensure that they are able to do so safely, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is in close collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to provide information to educators and parents about vaccines for students aged 5-17. Districts have access to communications tools to support COVID-19 vaccine messaging including social media graphics, sample messages to parents, and an online vaccine-finder.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** CDE will use ARP ESSER funds to support high-impact tutoring, increased access to high-quality curricular and instructional materials, professional learning modules, educator workforce recruitment and retention efforts, school improvement grants, supplemental funding to support Native American students and students with disabilities, and career and technical education programs.
- **Investing in Expanded Afterschool and Summer Programs:** CDE plans to support academic acceleration for students disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, with an emphasis on K-8 students in math and literacy and supporting expanded learning opportunities to strengthen student engagement. Potential uses of funds include high-impact tutoring for students most impacted by the pandemic, expanding 21st Century Community Learning Centers, additional partnerships between districts and community-based organizations, and school-based summer academies.
- **Engaging Rural Students through Career-Connected Learning:** To strengthen student engagement in rural communities, CDE will use ARP ESSER funds to foster collaborations among rural districts to build career-connected learning opportunities. These coalitions will allow districts to establish partnerships that address the career-connected learning needs of their communities by leveraging the work occurring in neighboring districts.
- **Supporting the Educator Workforce:** CDE will use ARP ESSER funding to create opportunities that encourage preservice educators to enter the workforce, recruit high-quality educators to Colorado schools, and establish mentoring retention programs that provide support to new-to-service educators while also providing professional growth opportunities for experienced educators. Other retention strategies currently being piloted in the state may also be

supported, such as expanding the AmeriCorps program as a both a tutor and future teacher pipeline.

- **When Colorado's LEA Use of Funds Plans will be due:** December 16, 2021