

Illinois ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Illinois: \$5,058,601,934

ARP ESSER funding released to Illinois on March 24, 2021: \$3,369,992,036

ARP ESSER funding released to Illinois on August 26, 2021: \$1,688,609,898

2020-2021 P-12 Statewide Enrollment: 1,872,445

Top Priorities within Illinois plan:

- Strengthening supports for current educators and expanding the teacher recruitment pipeline
- Providing comprehensive students supports, particularly those related to social-emotional learning and mental health
- Closing the digital divide

Highlights of Illinois Plan:

- **Returning to In Person Learning in 2021:** Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine and are in quarantine consistent with state or local public health guidance.
- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** Illinois is undertaking efforts to vaccinate entire school communities, including teachers, staff, and eligible students. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has provided schools with information on how to talk about the vaccine, how to build vaccine confidence, and how to partner with their local community vaccine providers to host vaccine clinics for their staff, students, and families. Communications on vaccinations, accessibility, and efficacy have been released and will continue to be updated and provided to schools into the new school year.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time and Investing in Summer Learning and Expanded Afterschool Program:** ISBE will provide \$345 million in formula-based funding to all school districts and other entities including special education cooperatives, to support evidence-based interventions that address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on certain groups of students, including students who have missed the most in-person instruction and students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction. ISBE will also dedicate \$12 million to implement a high-impact tutoring program.
- **Closing the Digital Divide:** ISBE will dedicate \$52 million to closing the digital divide, building on its efforts through earlier federal pandemic recovery funds to ensure all school districts have the capacity to equip each student with their own computer. This will empower students to engage more fully in 21st century learning.
- **Supporting Students' and Educators' Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs:** ISBE will dedicate \$50 million in ARP ESSER funds for competitive grants to schools and community-based organizations to create community partnerships to support the social emotional and mental health needs of students and staff. Priority will be given to those applicants proposing to serve districts in counties most greatly impacted by COVID-19 (students from low-income families, students from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, English learners, students with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, migratory students, and students in foster care). ISBE will also provide statewide training on the Trauma Responsive School Assessment so that trainers can work with districts to identify needs and develop action plans.

- **Staffing to Support Students' Needs:** One of ISBE's top priorities is to support LEAs in filling the nearly 1,000 position shortage of educators and the expansion and diversification of the educator pipeline. Nearly \$10 million of ARP ESSER funds will be used for projects to help build a diverse workforce that reflects the states' student population, including partnerships with educator preparation programs and teacher residency programs.
- **When Illinois LEA Use of Funds Plans Will be Due:** Within 30 days of district receiving ARP ESSER funds.