

Maine ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Maine: \$411,429,361

ARP ESSER funding released to Maine on March 24, 2021: \$274,202,188

ARP ESSER funding released to Maine on September 13, 2021: \$137,227,173

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 172,455

Top Priorities within Maine's plan:

- Social and emotional learning and mental and behavioral health for students
- Expanding restorative alternatives to exclusionary discipline
- Student-centered learning through interdisciplinary, project-based instruction

Highlights of Maine's Plan:

- **Returning to In Person Learning in 2021:** In Maine, nearly every school has been open for some in-person instruction since fall 2020. The 2021-2022 school year has begun in Maine with all schools open fulltime, in-person, 5 days per week.
- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** Maine's COVID-19 Response vaccination website provides hundreds of vaccination sites through health care centers, pharmacies, and mobile vaccination units. Several Maine School Administrative Units (SAUs) also served as vaccination sites in the spring of 2021, and this fall many are working with local providers to host COVID-19 vaccine clinics for age eligible students and staff. Maine Department of Education (MDOE) is providing additional support for clinics to 12 SAUs. For no cost to them, each SAU or school can opt into the voluntary Pooled PCR Testing Program. To date, 360 schools have opted into the program.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** Maine Department of Education's (MDOE) Extended Learning Program will develop opportunities for students across the state to engage with local industry employers. The program will allow students to gain knowledge and skills through learning and credit recovery in community-based and work-based organizations through the academic year. The Maine Online Opportunities for Sustained Education (MOOSE) Learning Module Library provides free access to asynchronous, interdisciplinary, project-based learning modules aligned to the Maine Learning Results for PreK-12. Additionally, Learning Management System (LMS) subgrants are available to SAUs to plan, execute, and assess specific learning processes and provide personalized approaches to education.
- **Investing in Expanded Afterschool Programs:** Beginning in the Fall of 2021, MDOE is encouraging local school districts to form partnerships with community-based organizations to support afterschool programming. MDOE will coordinate these efforts with the state's 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.
- **Staffing to Support Students' Needs:** MDOE partnered with the Maine Community College System to launch the Learning Facilitators Program, a fast-track training program for paraprofessional level educators to expand, strengthen and support the educator workforce and enables program participants to earn educational certifications at no cost. Over 100 educators completed coursework and secured placements. MDOE will continue this program in the 2021-22 school year and is exploring an expansion of this program with ARP funds.
- **Addressing the "Whole Student":** In the distribution of ARP ESSER funds, MDOE will encourage districts to focus on social-emotional learning, mental and behavioral health programs,

restorative alternatives to exclusionary discipline, trauma-informed practices, student-centered learning through interdisciplinary, project-based instruction, and related professional development for educators and school leaders.

- **Meeting Emergency Needs:** MDOE will use ARP emergency needs funds for mental health support for students, educators, and families; professional learning in trauma-informed practices; statewide diversity, and equity and inclusion support. This reflects input during MDOE's community engagement to prioritize ensuring that students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and prepared through investments in structures, human capital, systems, and practices.

When Maine's LEA Use of Funds Plans will be due: September 29, 2021