

Missouri ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Missouri: \$1,957,916,288

ARP ESSER funding released to Missouri on March 24, 2021: \$1,304,352,810

ARP ESSER funding released to Missouri on October 7, 2021: \$654,563,478

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 882,388

Top Priorities within Missouri's Plan:

- Accelerating student learning
- Supporting the social-emotional well-being of students
- Addressing the educator workforce shortage
- Reducing the digital divide

Highlights of Missouri Plan:

- **Returning to In-Person Learning in 2021:** All local education agencies (LEAs) are providing onsite instruction in the 2021-2022 school year. Students may request virtual instruction through the Missouri Online Course Access Program or other locally provided virtual education offerings.
- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MO DESE) has promoted statewide vaccination events and has collaborated with the state health agency to offer school districts a wide variety of options for COVID-19 screening testing for the 2021-2022 school year. MO DESE continues to share vaccine-related information with stakeholders and encourage local school leaders to consider vaccination of eligible students and staff as a key mitigation strategy. MO DESE continues to work with state health officials to update school reopening and operating guidance as needed.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** Pending General Assembly spending authority, MO DESE will implement its intervention plans to leverage ARP ESSER funds. DESE intends to launch the state's literacy initiative to ensure all children can read by the end of second grade. MO DESE will also invest in a competency-based learning pilot to reach students who have fallen behind. These efforts will be further supported by content experts who will provide added professional development opportunities to educators through the state's nine Regional Professional Development Centers. In addition, MO DESE plans to use funds to expand access to broadband.
- **Supporting the Educator Workforce:** MO DESE will offer both teacher recruitment retention grants to all LEAs. The application process will include a review of local data on teacher turnover as well as strategies the LEA will implement to address their shortage areas. The grant allocation process provides additional funds to those LEAs with harder to fill positions, such as LEAs serving higher numbers of students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. ARP ESSER funds will be used to support research based strategies, including, but not limited to: strengthening the mentor program for early career teachers, utilizing culture and climate surveys to determine and address working condition issues, and providing services that address the social-emotional needs of teachers.
- **When Missouri LEA Use of Funds Plans were due:** August 23, 2021