

### South Carolina ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for South Carolina: \$2,113,567,527

ARP ESSER funding released to South Carolina on March 24, 2021: \$1,408,034,325

ARP ESSER funding released to South Carolina on August 12, 2021: \$705,533,202

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 766,819

#### **Top Priorities within South Carolina's plan:**

- Addressing learning loss
- Offering social-emotional learning and mental health support
- Facility upgrades in response to COVID-19

#### **Highlights of South Carolina's Plan:**

- **Returning to In-Person Learning in 2021:** All South Carolina public schools will offer full-time, in-person instruction in the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) partnered with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to promote a vaccine confidence campaign among the state's families, educators, and school communities. The campaign includes a communication's toolkit, answers to frequently asked questions, and vaccination events tailored to schools and communities. The agencies have also provided school operational guidance ahead of the upcoming school year based on lessons learned from the pandemic and the latest public health guidance
- **Focusing on Early Learning:** SCDE plans to provide training and instructional materials to schools where 33 percent or more of 3rd graders scored in the lowest performance level on the 2019 State summative reading or language arts assessment. The training and materials must meet evidence-based criteria in the science of reading. SCDE will partner with SC First Steps to School Readiness to support transitioning students into pre-k and kindergarten, recruit and retain pre-K teachers, engage parents, and monitor the health of early learners through early identification and referrals.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** SCDE will work with partners to provide high dosage tutoring to students, identified through data, who have been most impacted by COVID-19. Additionally, SCDE will partner with the SC Commission on Higher Education and Technical College Board to develop pathways to post-secondary education and will engage local communities in identifying adults who have not earned a diploma and provide online access and support on the GED and family literacy. SCDE will also support adult education students who were disconnected from the education process during the pandemic and support these adults in earning a GED.
- **Investing in Summer Learning and Expanded Afterschool Programs:** SCDE plans to partner with the SC Arts Commission to include summer program interventions that are aligned to the SC College and Career Ready Standards for language arts and mathematics in schools and districts, focused on students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. SCDE will collaborate with the First Steps program to offer summer learning programs to rising pre-k and kindergarten students to support the transition to the learning environment. SCDE will also create a summer career training program to connect students with post-secondary institutions and earn dual credits. Additionally, SCDE will provide funds directly to South Carolina Afterschool Alliance to support afterschool programs.

- **Supporting the Educator Pipeline:** SCDE will use ARP ESSER funds to collaborate with institutions of higher education, including the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and the SC Technical College System, to employ post-secondary students as summer teaching interns beginning in 2021. The funds will be available to the students as a stipend and summer tuition. The tuition costs will cover coursework to prepare post-secondary students to deliver high quality, evidence-based instruction in afterschool and summer learning opportunities. SCDE will also collaborate with other entities to develop a pipeline of new talent to attract educators of color to the classroom as well as launch pathways for entering the teaching profession and a communication platform to promote the pathways.
- **When South Carolina's LEA Use of Funds Plans will be Due:** August 24, 2021