

Utah ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Utah: \$615,929,016

ARP ESSER funding released to Utah on March 24, 2021: \$410,350,713

ARP ESSER funding released to Utah on July 7, 2021: \$205,578,303

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 680,659

Top Priorities Within Utah's Plan:

- Addressing student mental health and social emotional needs including, such as access to culturally responsive, youth-based mental health supports
- Identifying and engaging missing or disengaged students in K-12
- Addressing literacy in grades K-12

Highlights of Utah's Plan:

- **Returning to In Person Learning in 2021:** The Utah State Board of Education (USBE) worked collaboratively with the Utah Department of Health, the Governor's office, and others to establish health and safety protocols that supported most Utah students continuing with in-person learning throughout the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Assessing the Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** USBE developed a comprehensive plan for determining the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning, including the identification of relevant data sources and the addition of opportunity to learn questions on statewide summative assessments in grades 3-10. USBE also administered a school climate survey to all LEAs in spring 2021 to determine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on each student subgroup. USBE is also actively collecting school level data on lost instructional time. USBE will use data from these sources to identify additional highest priority needs and identify any subgroups of students which have been most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Investing in Summer Learning and Afterschool Programs:** USBE indicates that it will award ARP ESSER funds for evidence-based summer learning and evidence-based afterschool programming through a competitive grant process to both LEAs and community-based organizations (CBOs). In the application, the LEA must include a description of the evidence-based interventions that it will implement. Applicants will not only be required to support student's academic needs, but also students' social, emotional, and mental health needs to be awarded the ARP funds. Applicants will also be required to submit targeted plans to serve students most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and applications will be reviewed by subject matter experts.
- **Re-Engaging Students:** USBE is requiring LEAs and CBOs that are receiving funding for summer learning and afterschool programs to describe how they will identify and serve students who missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years and students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures. Applicants can utilize LEA attendance data from the local student information systems and local benchmarks assessments to identify students, as well as targeting students in need of credit recovery.

When Utah's LEA Use of Funds Plans will be due: August 20, 2021