



# CARES Act Investments

## Nebraska K-12 Education

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### The Purpose of CARES Act Funds

# To prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.

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### Federal Fund Overview

- CARES Act – Passed on March 27, 2020
  - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund
    - Includes Non-Public School Funding
  - Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Act – Passed December 21, 2020
  - ESSER II Funds
  - GEER II Funds
    - Includes Non-Public School Funding
- American Rescue Plan Act – March 11, 2021
  - Roughly 2.2 times the amounts of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Act



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## CARES Act Allocations

- ESSER I
  - LEA's portion = \$58.5 Million (60% Obligated)
    - Allocations based on Title IA funding formula
    - Obligation Period March 13, 2020 – Sept 30, 2022
    - Includes \$6.4 Million for Non-Public Schools
    - Used by LEA's for the following:
      - Technology
      - Closure related costs/Staffing
      - Response/Supplies for COVID
  - SEA's portion = \$6.5 Million (98% Obligated)
    - Used for statewide initiatives based on survey of highest areas of need.
      - Technology and Resources \$4.2 million
      - Curriculum
      - Professional Development

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## GEERS Funds

- GEERS I Funds – Used to address digital equitable access challenges.
  - \$16.4 Million – 100% Obligated
    - Devices and systems were purchased for Public, Non-Public and Exempt School Students.
- GEERS II Funds
  - Emergency Assistance for Non-Public School (EANS) - \$17 Million
  - \$7 Million to be used for education as the Governor directs.

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## Response and Relief Act Allocations

- ESSER II
  - LEA's portion = \$218.8 Million
    - Allocations based on Title IA funding formula
    - Obligation period March 13, 2020 – Sept 30, 2023
    - Application available in April
  - SEA's portion = \$24.3 Million
    - NDE leadership is working very hard to identify the priorities of needs, addressing strategic impacts and systemic changes for efficiency, and considering the long-term sustainability of any decisions associated with obligating federal investments in Nebraska's education system.
    - At the Core of this work are supports for Renewal and Acceleration of Learning in Nebraska while ensuring the safe, secure and viable options for the Nebraska education system.



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## American Rescue Plan Act Allocations

- ESSER III
  - LEA's portion = \$491 Million
    - Allocations based on Title IA funding formula
    - Obligation period March 13, 2020 – Sept 30, 2024
    - Allocations available in May
    - Application available in July
    - 20% must be used to address Learning Loss
- SEA's portion = \$54.5 Million
  - NDE leadership is working very hard to identify the priorities of needs, addressing strategic impacts and systemic changes for efficiency, and considering the long-term sustainability of any decisions associated with obligating federal investments in Nebraska's education system.
  - At the Core of this work are supports for Renewal and Acceleration of Learning in Nebraska while ensuring the safe, secure and viable options for the Nebraska education system.

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### ESSER Funds Allowable Uses

- Any use authorized under ESEA, IDEA, Title II, Perkins Career and Technical Education Act or McKinney Vento
- Coordinating preparedness/response efforts of LEA's
- Addressing needs of marginalized or disadvantaged student populations
- Training/professional development
- Purchasing educational technology
- Providing mental health services and supports
- Providing meals to eligible students

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### ESSER Funds Allowable Uses (continued)

- Summer learning and supplemental after school programs
- Other activities necessary to maintain the operation of the school and employ existing staff.

*Additional Allowable Uses for Coronavirus Relief and Response Act*

- Address learning loss (unfinished learning)
- School facility repairs/improvements that reduce the risk of virus transmission
- Improving indoor air quality of school facilities

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### Actual Uses of ESSER I funds

- **PPE:** infrared thermometers, cleaning supplies, masks, etc.
- **Technology:** Wi-Fi connected devices, classroom cameras, etc.
- **Staffing:** COVID leave, non-certificated staff pay during shutdown, additional substitute teachers, paras, custodians, etc.
- **Compensatory education:** SPED services that need to be made up
- **Ensuring equitable instruction:** paras for students with disabilities
- **Nutrition:** meals for students from March – August.
- **Physical and mental health needs:** additional nurses, contracts for licensed mental health practitioners
- **Professional Learning:** directed towards remote learning



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### Statewide Guidance

#### CARES Act

<https://www.education.ne.gov/cares-act/>

#### Launch Nebraska

<https://www.launchne.com/>

#### Do Right, Right Now

<https://dorightrightnow.org/>

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