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.

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
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/Funding 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

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.

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.
American Rescue Plan Act Allocations

• 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 need, addressing systemic impacts and closures, ensuring for efficacy, 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 operation of the Nebraska education system.

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

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
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

Statewide Guidance

CARES Act
https://www.education.ne.gov/cares-act/

Launch Nebraska
https://www.launchne.com/

Do Right, Right Now
https://dorightrightnow.org/