

What is the ARP ESSER fund?

The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund, authorized under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, provided nearly \$122 billion to States to support the Nation's schools in safely reopening and sustaining safe operations of schools while meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students resulting from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. It is particularly important that ARP ESSER funding enabled States and local educational agencies (LEAs), and more directly schools, to support students who had been most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and were likely to have suffered the most because of longstanding inequities in our communities and schools that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

What is the ARP ESSER set-aside fund?

The ARP Act required State Education Agencies (SEAs), like the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), to set-aside certain percentages of their total state ARP ESSER allocation for specific purposes. The ARP Act required 5% of ARP ESSER funds to be set-aside for learning loss, 1% of ARP ESSER funds to be set-aside for summer enrichment programs, and another 1% of ARP ESSER funds to be set-aside for comprehensive after-school programs.

In June 2021, the General Assembly and Governor Wolf enacted Act 24 of 2021, which allocated these three ARP ESSER set-aside funds to school districts and charter schools based on their share of Title I-A funds for 2020-21.

Act 24 also required school districts and charter schools to allocate certain minimum percentages of their share of the 5% ARP ESSER set-aside for learning loss to target specific programs and supports as follows:

- *At least 30% must be targeted to social, emotional, or mental health supports to students*
- *At least 10% must be targeted to professional development and technical assistance to educators and school staff to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students*
- *At least 8% must be targeted to reading support and improvement for students*



While school districts and charter schools must allocate at least the minimum percentages identified in Act 24 to the relevant areas above, they are permitted to use their remaining ARP ESSER set-aside funds for learning loss more broadly to implement evidence-based interventions to address learning loss and provide summer enrichment and comprehensive after-school programs in response to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students, particularly subgroups of student disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

How is Charter Arts planning on using ARP ESSER funds?

Any school district or charter school that receives ARP ESSER funds must develop and make publicly available on the school's website a plan for the use of ARP ESSER funds. These requirements are intended to promote accountability, transparency, and the effective use of funds.

- *Charter Arts ARP ESSER plan can be viewed [here](#)*
- *Charter Arts ESSER II plan can be viewed [here](#)*
- *Charter Arts ARP ESSER set-aside Learning Loss plan can be viewed [here](#)*
- *Charter Arts ARP ESSER set-aside Summer School plan can be viewed [here](#)*
- *Charter Arts ARP ESSER set-aside After School plan can be viewed [here](#)*

If you have any further questions regarding federal funding, email our Federal Funding Coordinator, Cyndi Evans at cevans@charterarts.org.