

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund

Arizona State Plan

Submitted to the U.S. Department of Education
July 22, 2021, Updated August 31, 2021,
Updated April 28, 2022, Updated September 30, 2022,
Updated March 26, 2024

Executive Summary

Throughout the pandemic, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) has worked closely with stakeholders to understand critical needs related to the pandemic. ADE has tied those needs to a strategic vision for the agency – **equity for all students to achieve their full potential.** This vision informs our mission to ensure that every student in Arizona has access to high-quality education, essential support services, and opportunities that allow them to succeed and thrive academically.

The pandemic exacerbated long-standing inequities in Arizona's education system. ADE strategically plans to address such inequities by using available federal relief dollars to build capacity in state and local systems for the schools, students, and communities most impacted by the pandemic, and complement and support local recovery efforts.

The Department has made a series of critical investments with ESSER I and II funds to respond to the pandemic. Projects funded to date have met the following criteria:

- Support for students and communities most impacted by COVID-19
- Expanding schools' access to evidence-based programs and trainings
- Addressing multiple factors that impact student academic success like social-emotional-wellbeing, educator workforce shortages and burnout, and family internet connectivity
- The ability to measure success and impact of investments

The following strategies have been particularly effective:

- Addressing the impact of the digital divide on learning
- Educator professional development and resources for multiple modalities of learning
- Partnerships with universities and community-based organizations on timely initiatives

Some examples of the above strategies in action include:

- Partnering with an internet service provider to increase internet speeds for low-income families
- Partnering with other state agencies, universities, and philanthropic organizations to provide virtual professional development opportunities and mental health support to educators statewide
- Funding community-based organizations to serve more families in high-need communities

Additional details and examples of these projects are provided in-depth at the beginning of our plan.

All have encompassed interventions to address the impacts of disrupted instructional time and shifts to learning environments. Many of these interventions may be extended into an additional

year using ARP ESSER funds. ADE will use this plan developed with stakeholder feedback and data to bring additional focus to the work at-hand and ahead. **Our goal is to accelerate academic success** over the next several years through:

1. **Enrichment and reinforcement to learning** -- innovations in assessment; data systems and data sharing; high-quality afterschool, expanded day, and summer learning programs; increased access to extracurriculars and tutoring; digital access and literacy; educator recruitment and retention.

2. **Mental, behavioral, and physical health support for students and educators** -- professional development and trauma-informed training for educators; family engagement and resources; high-quality after school, expanded day, and summer learning programs; and increased access to specialized professionals in schools.

3. **Student and family re-engagement and support for critical transition periods** -- family engagement and resources, kindergarten readiness tools and resources; mentorship programs; strengthening credit recovery programs; support for school district and community outreach to disengaged youth; programs focused on high school and post-secondary readiness; and digital access and literacy.

This state plan includes more details on our approach throughout the pandemic and plans moving forward. We consider this a living document, as the needs and priorities across the state may evolve and shift based on the course of the pandemic and the road to recovery.

We are grateful to our Arizona students, educators, families, and the broader education community for their resiliency during the pandemic. We look forward to their partnership in the months and years ahead with this historic opportunity to invest in education.

State Plan for the
American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

U.S. Department of Education

Issued: April 21, 2021

OMB Number: 1810-0754
Expiration Date: October 31, 2021

Paperwork Burden Statement According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1810-0754. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 100 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit under Section 2001 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP Act). If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time

estimate, suggestions for improving this individual collection, or if you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual form, application or survey, please contact Britt Jung, Office of State and Grantee Relations, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-6450, email: SGR@ed.gov directly.

Introduction

The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief ("ARP ESSER") Fund, authorized under the American Rescue Plan ("ARP") Act of 2021, provides 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 will enable States and local educational agencies ("LEAs"), and more directly schools, to support students who have been most severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are likely to have suffered the most because of longstanding inequities in our communities and schools that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. Department of Education ("Department") is committed to working in partnership with States so that these unprecedented resources are quickly put to work to ensure students have sustained access to in-person instruction and that the resources are used to provide the effective support students need as they persist through and recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The thoughtful and timely use of these funds will have a lasting impact on our Nation's schools and help to address the inequities in resources, services, and opportunities available to our students.

This template presents an opportunity for States to share their plans for the use of ARP ESSER funds with the public. The Department must approve a State educational agency's ("SEA's") plan in order to make the State's remaining ARP ESSER allocation available for use. Please note that the Department intends to issue ARP ESSER reporting requirements separately.

Instructions

Each SEA must provide descriptions and other information that address each requirement listed below. An SEA may use this template or another format as long as every item and element is addressed in the SEA's response. Throughout this document, questions that refer to an SEA's ARP ESSER funding are referencing the total allocation to be received by the SEA, including that which it allocates to its LEAs.

Each SEA must submit to the Department by **June 7, 2021,** either: (1) its ARP ESSER plan or (2) the State requirements that preclude submission of the plan by that date and a date by which it will be able to submit its complete ARP ESSER plan.

To submit the SEA's plan, please email the plan to your Program Officer at [State].OESE@ed.gov (e.g., Alabama.OESE@ed.gov).

In order to ensure transparency, the Department will post each plan on the Department's website when it is received and will indicate each plan's approval status.

This template also allows States to fulfill the requirement of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations ("CRRSA") Act ESSER II 6-month reporting requirement in section 313(f) of the CRRSA Act.

Grantee and Contact Information

ARP ESSER PR Award Number: S425U210038

SEA Contact: Michelle Udall

Telephone: 602-364-2811

Email address: Michelle.Udall@azed.gov

By signing this document, I agree to each of the assurances listed in Appendix C and further assure that: To the best of my knowledge and belief, all information and data included in this plan are true and correct.	
Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Printed Name) **Tom Horne**	
Signature of Authorized SEA Representative 	Date: 05/21/24

A. Describing the State's Current Status and Needs

The Department recognizes the extraordinary efforts made by States, LEAs, and educators to support students during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this section, SEAs will describe the progress they have made, the priorities and student needs guiding their ARP ESSER funding decisions, and their current and projected operating status.

1. Progress and Promising Practices: Provide your assessment of the top 2-3 strategies that have been most effective in supporting the needs of students in your State during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for students most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please include, if applicable, how your State will submit and encourage its LEAs to submit lessons learned and best practices to the Department's *Safer Schools and Campuses Best Practices Clearinghouse* so that they can be shared with other States and LEAs.

The following strategies led by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and partner organizations were particularly effective in supporting the needs of students in Arizona, especially those most impacted by COVID-19:

Addressing the impact of the digital divide on learning

The digital divide was a particular challenge in Arizona, given its diverse geographical landscape and the location of several school communities in remote areas. Nonetheless, ADE was able to take some immediate action steps including collaborating with:

- Cox Communications (a prevalent provider in AZ) to permanently double the speed of Cox's *Connect2Compete* internet service, a critical increase in speed for this plan available to low-income families.

- The Arizona Rural Schools' Association and the Arizona County Superintendents' Association by providing $1.5M in ESSER funds to fund a "final mile project", which will bring reliable, high-speed internet access to six rural Arizona communities by extending existing broadband capacity at schools and libraries (via E-rate) to students' homes. This is designed to be a proof of concept for scaling across the state with other available resources.

- Education Superhighway, a national non-profit, to enter into a data sharing agreement to leverage statewide data to identify the availability of ISP providers to support procurement efforts by LEAs and to help families take advantage of other federal programs for affordable broadband.

In addition, Superintendent Horne and a member of the State Board of Education convened a Technology Task Force to examine immediate and long-term needs to support digital access and literacy for education. Recommendations and resources from the Task Force are informing the use of

ESSER funds, agency budget and staffing, as well as being shared with other government agencies working on issues of digital access.

Educator professional development and resources for multiple modalities of learning

ADE took several immediate steps to support educators and service organizations grappling with the shift to distance learning, and then adapting to a hybrid model during the pandemic. The participation rates demonstrated the need across for this type of easily accessible resource offered at the state-level.

- Social Emotional Learning: Trauma-Sensitive Training and Support for Schools: free professional learning opportunities for educators to implement trauma-informed methods and new SEL competencies into their classrooms starting in the Summer of 2020 and through SY 2020-2021

- Arizona Virtual Teacher Institute (AVTI): provided opportunities for all educators and childcare providers free, on-demand professional learning to advance digital teaching and learning skills. LEAs also had the option to leverage AVTI for customized trainings for their staff. Over 11,700 teachers from over 1100 unique school districts have participated in these professional learning opportunities as of July 2021.

- College Access Professional (CAP) training ADE staff to facilitate virtual/hybrid training for teachers on how to play a role in advising students and increasing postsecondary attainment throughout Arizona, with a focus on low-income and underserved populations.

Partnerships with universities and community-based organizations

These entities have played a key role in addressing immediate and on-going needs of the pandemic. For example:

- University of Arizona's Center for Recruitment & Retention of Math Teachers (CRR) has worked with ADE on the goal of ensuring all K-12 math educators, including those in special education, have access to the resources, supports, and professional learning opportunities offered by the CRR statewide at no cost.

- YMCA and Arizona Alliance of Boys & Girls Club collaborated with ADE and the Governor's Office at the height of the pandemic to provide capacity to support onsite services for students who needed a safe place to go when schools only offered distance learning during the SY 2020-2021. These partners provided youth access to technology, adult supervision, and support with online learning platforms, as well as childcare and extended day opportunities for essential workers to accommodate workforce hours.

ADE has several other projects and services through partnerships available during summer 2021 and next school year.

ADE is also partnering with the Arizona Department of Economic Security to utilize $95.7M in supplemental ARP funds to the Child Care Development Fund to 1) accelerate early childhood literacy, including launching literacy coaches; 2) provide preschool development grants for LEAs and other providers; 3) expand the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program; and 4) support cross-sector strategic planning, data integration, and fiscal mapping to address early childhood capacity gaps across Arizona. This will be an important collaboration among partners and supplement to our strategies and investments through ARP ESSER.

ADE will submit, and encourage its LEAs to submit, lessons learned and best practices to the ED's *Safer Schools and Campuses Best Practices Clearinghouse* so that they can be shared with other States and LEAs.

2. Overall Priorities: Provide your assessment of the top 2-3 issues currently facing students and schools across your State as a result of or in response to the COVID-19 pandemic including, to the extent possible, data illustrating why these are the most critical and/or most widespread issues facing schools and students.

ADE will use this ARP ESSER plan developed with stakeholder feedback and data to bring additional focus to the work at-hand and ahead. **Our goal is to accelerate academic success** over the next several years though the following priority areas:

1. **Enrichment and reinforcement to learning**
2. **Mental, behavioral, and physical health support for students and educators**
3. **Student and family re-engagement and support for critical academic transition periods**

These priorities will help ADE address key pressing issues currently facing students and schools across the state, including:

Assessing learning loss and measuring and evaluating progress: Schools need guidance on how best to assess the impact of learning loss of students, selecting and using universal screening tools, diagnostic assessments, and other data sources to identify learning gaps. This would include how to analyze these local assessment data to support instructional decision-making and how to measure and evaluate the impact of evidence-based strategies, programs, and practices on student learning over time.

Equitably increasing learning opportunities and digital access: The pandemic revealed long-standing inequities in learning opportunities – particularly for Arizona's historically underserved and most vulnerable student populations. There is a critical need to support the intentional selection and implementation of evidence-based strategies and resources to support schools equitably and sustainably, accelerate learning and increase learning opportunities for students. Across the state, students' uneven engagement in distance and online learning exacerbated absenteeism and learning gaps due to lost instructional time. Given this, there is a need to continue to address the digital divide and homework gap – particularly concerning access to reliable, high-speed internet for students at home and supporting teachers on how to integrate the use of technology in their teaching effectively.

Addressing disruption and trauma on student learning and development: Support that may have previously been in place was either limited or ended due to schools' inability to effectively deliver these services when closed for in-person learning or operating in hybrid models. Furthermore, the pandemic brought new grief, loss, and trauma, potentially including increased risk for violence and abuse in the home. Given this, there will continue to be a need to provide targeted, evidence-based strategies to support students, staff, and families' well-being and mental health needs. There is also a need for ongoing professional learning, resources, and support for teachers to integrate Social-Emotional Learning competencies into their daily classroom routines and practices and trauma-sensitive approaches using frameworks.

Data and information throughout this plan illustrate why these are priorities to address critical and widespread issues facing Arizona's schools and students.

3. Identifying Needs of Underserved Students: Describe your State's 2-3 highest priority academic, social, emotional, and/or mental health needs for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year (if applicable) and for the 2021-2022 school year related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on each of the following student groups:
    i. Students from low-income families,
    ii. Students from each racial or ethnic group (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by race or ethnicity),
    iii. Gender (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by gender),
    iv. English learners,
    v. Children with disabilities (including infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA")),
    vi. Students experiencing homelessness,
    vii. Children and youth in foster care,

viii. Migratory students, and

ix. Other groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic that have been identified by the SEA (e.g., youth involved in the criminal justice system, students who have missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures, and LGBTQ+ students).

To the extent possible, this description should include data on indicators such as estimates of the academic impact of lost instructional time,[1] chronic absenteeism, student engagement, and social-emotional well-being.

Complete the table below, adding rows as necessary, or provide a narrative description.

Table A1.

Student group	**Highest priority needs**
Students from low-income families	• Studies show that students will have lost up to 30 percent of their annual gain in reading and 50 percent in math because of the disruption to in-person learning. Overall, students, on average, are predicted to have missed 6.8 months of learning. Black and Hispanic students are predicted to have missed between 9-11 months of learning (Migration Policy Institute, 2020). There will be a need for schools statewide to assess the impact of learning to be intentional and targeted in meeting students' needs and accelerating learning. • Students who have been identified as Black, Hispanic, or Native American may also be students who come from low-income families. These students faced some of the most significant barriers with internet connectivity, accessing school supplies and materials, and receiving social and emotional/health services during distance learning. • Kindergarten enrollment dropped from 81,606 in SY20 to 72,960 in SY21, a decrease of 10.59%. Kindergarten students from low-income families make up a high percentage of these numbers. These students have missed opportunities for learning foundational skills in reading and math, developing proficiency in social and academic language, and developing social and emotional skills that are critical in a learner's early years in school. They will need to be prioritized as they move into their next year of schooling. • For most students, educators, staff, and school administrators, COVID-19 raised concerns related to danger, safety, and the need for protection. For some, these concerns added to pre-existing trauma, adversity, and disparities. And for others, the pandemic brought new grief, uncertainty, and trauma. These concerns were added barriers for students from low-income families, exacerbating the challenges historically faced related to economic hardship and unmet basic needs.

[1] For the purposes of the plan, "academic impact of lost instructional time" refers to "learning loss" experienced by students as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as referenced in the ARP Act and the CRRSA Act.

<table>
<tr><th>Student group</th><th>Highest priority needs</th></tr>
<tr><td>Students from each racial or ethnic background used by the State for reporting purposes – please add a row for each racial or ethnic group (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by race/ethnicity)</td><td>

Historically, underserved students from Arizona’s racial and ethnic groups have been disproportionately represented in Arizona’s data on chronic absenteeism. These students have missed much-needed instructional time, opportunities to access any desired or necessary social, emotional, and mental health services.

The following table indicates data for chronically absent students in Arizona for SY2018-2019 and SY2019-2020, disaggregated by student population. Please note that SY2019-2020 indicates fewer chronically absent students, due to data reporting challenges schools faced after the COVID-19 National Emergency was declared on March 13, 2020.

<table>
<tr><th>All Students</th><th colspan="2">Total Number of Students Chronically Absent</th><th colspan="2">Total Number of Students Enrolled</th><th colspan="2">Total Percentage of Students Chronically Absent</th></tr>
<tr><td>Student Populations</td><td>SY2018-2019</td><td>SY2019-2020</td><td>SY2018-2019</td><td>SY2019-2020</td><td>SY2018-2019</td><td>SY2019-2020</td></tr>
<tr><td>Arizona</td><td>286,446</td><td>190,372</td><td>1,141,511</td><td>1,152,586</td><td>25.09%</td><td>16.52%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Native American</td><td>21,804</td><td>13,581</td><td>51,027</td><td>49,201</td><td>42.73%</td><td>27.60%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Asian</td><td>2,994</td><td>1,659</td><td>33,659</td><td>33,158</td><td>8.90%</td><td>5.00%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Black</td><td>18,698</td><td>12,339</td><td>62,594</td><td>61,929</td><td>29.87%</td><td>19.92%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hispanic</td><td>151,189</td><td>100,398</td><td>520,897</td><td>523,478</td><td>29.02%</td><td>19.18%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Multi-Racial</td><td>10,638</td><td>10,227</td><td>37,768</td><td>46,621</td><td>28.17%</td><td>21.94%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Pacific Islander</td><td>979</td><td>544</td><td>4,425</td><td>3,933</td><td>22.12%</td><td>13.83%</td></tr>
<tr><td>White</td><td>80,117</td><td>51,610</td><td>431,141</td><td>434,266</td><td>18.58%</td><td>11.88%</td></tr>
<tr><td>LEP</td><td>20,776</td><td>13,153</td><td>73,405</td><td>85,320</td><td>28.30%</td><td>15.42%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Homeless</td><td>9,725</td><td>6,777</td><td>21,073</td><td>11,534</td><td>44.69%</td><td>58.76%</td></tr>
</table>

Approximately one third of Arizona students continue to face barriers engaging in school due to limited or no access to technology and connectivity. Half of these students are Black or Hispanic/Latino, per Closing the K-12 Digital Divide In The Age of Distance Learning, a report from July 2020 developed by Boston Consulting Group in partnership with Common Sense Media.
Arizona's Native American students, living in 22 Federally recognized tribal nations, were acutely impacted by the pandemic. Analysis of data regarding statewide percent households without internet and percent households without a computer from the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) noted that Native American students had limited or no access to technology or internet connectivity to support online instruction. Many students received instruction throughout the year through learning packets. These students also experienced some of the nation's highest mortality rates for COVID-19 – leading to generations of families being lost to the pandemic.
Arizona’s Latino students make up the largest portion of the State’s public education system. Many of the issues facing Arizona’s public schools are reflective of issues impacting Latino students and the broader community. The 2020 report, The Impact of COVID-19 on Latino

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Student group	Highest priority needs
	Families, by the Arizona non-profit All in Education, reported data from a survey and poll that reached 200 families noted that the top five concerns during the pandemic were 1) lack of communication in English and Spanish, 2) technology issues (devices and reliable internet), 3) parents' lack of tools to support at home learning, 4) economic challenges, and 5) populations at risk of falling behind (e.g. SPED, English Learners). • As a result of missed time in school, trauma experienced due to the impact of COVID-19, and limited access to the internet, Latino, Black, and Native American student's opportunities for learning and social-emotional well-being have been impacted significantly.
Students by gender – please add a row for each gender (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by gender)	• Arizona's data on chronic absenteeism, shows that male students are more likely to be chronically absent within underserved student groups than female student. • Note that SY2019-2020 indicates fewer chronically absent students, because of the data reporting challenges schools faced after the COVID-19 National Emergency was declared on March 13, 2020.

Male Students	Total Number of Students Chronically Absent		Total Number of Students Enrolled		Total Percentage of Students Chronically Absent	
Student Populations	SY2018-2019	SY2019-2020	SY2018-2019	SY2019-2020	SY2018-2019	SY2019-2020
Arizona	**147,001**	**97,884**	**584,438**	**590,665**	**25.15%**	**16.57%**
Native American	10,969	6,865	25,754	24,973	42.59%	27.49%
Asian	1,544	846	17,044	16,826	9.06%	5.03%
Black	10,119	6,619	32,335	31,936	31.29%	20.73%
Hispanic	77,222	51,479	265,874	267,536	29.04%	19.24%
Multi-Racial	5,416	5,291	19,080	23,600	28.39%	22.42%
Pacific Islander	510	284	2,354	2,053	21.67%	13.83%
White	41,221	26,500	221,997	223,741	18.57%	11.84%
LEP	11,511	7,209	37,582	43,724	30.63%	16.49%
Homeless	5,014	3,521	*	5,911	*	59.57%

Female Students	Total Number of Students Chronically Absent		Total Number of Students Enrolled		Total Percentage of Students Chronically Absent	
Student Populations	SY2018-2019	SY2019-2020	SY2018-2019	SY2019-2020	SY2018-2019	SY2019-2020
Arizona	**139,418**	**92,474**	**557,073**	**561,921**	**25.03%**	**16.46%**
Native American	10,835	6,716	25,273	24,228	42.87%	27.72%
Asian	1,450	813	16,615	16,332	8.73%	4.98%
Black	8,579	5,720	30,259	29,993	28.35%	19.07%
Hispanic	73,967	48,919	255,023	255,942	29.00%	19.11%
Multi-Racial	5,222	4,936	18,688	23,021	27.94%	21.44%

<table>
<tr><th>Student group</th><th>Highest priority needs</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>Pacific Islander</td><td>469</td><td>260</td><td>2,071</td><td>1,880</td><td>22.65%</td><td>13.83%</td></tr>
<tr><td>White</td><td>38,896</td><td>25,110</td><td>209,144</td><td>210,525</td><td>18.60%</td><td>11.93%</td></tr>
<tr><td>LEP</td><td>9,265</td><td>5,944</td><td>35,823</td><td>41,596</td><td>25.86%</td><td>14.29%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Homeless</td><td>4,711</td><td>3,256</td><td>*</td><td>5,623</td><td>*</td><td>57.90%</td></tr>
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*Disaggregated data for students experiencing homelessness are not available at the time of this reporting
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<tr><td>English learners</td><td>

Arizona currently serves approximately 86,000 English Learner (EL) students who are participating in an EL Program. Of that number, 78% are continuing in an EL Program from SY2019-2020. 19,000 were new to an EL Program in SY2020-2021. Of those students, 60% were incoming Kindergarten students.
2% of current students with an EL need and were in an EL program in SY2019-2020 were not in an EL program in SY2020-2021. These students will need to be identified, assessed, and monitored for progress.
Kindergarten English Learner students will also need to be prioritized as they move into their next year of schooling because of their unique social, emotional, and academic needs coupled with a high rate of chronic absenteeism.

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<tr><td>Children with disabilities</td><td>

Academic impact of lost instructional time and changed instructional environments: In SY 2021-2022, baseline and progress monitoring assessment of students with disabilities (SWD) will be critical to understanding the impact of lost instructional time and changed instructional environments (i.e., virtual vs. in-person) due to COVID-19 barriers during SY 2020-2021. Although students with disabilities were eligible to receive instruction and special education services via targeted onsite programs during SY 2020-2021 under Executive Order 2020-51, many parents of SWD declined to allow in-person instruction and services for SWD for medical, safety, transportation, or other reasons. If an SWD could not access all services effectively via virtual or hybrid settings, the full benefit of free appropriate public education (FAPE) may not have been possible. Additionally, while the need for Compensatory Services must be individually assessed and made available for students in this situation, providing these services now may not wholly compensate for lost time and services. Ongoing formal and informal assessments must be undertaken, and the results incorporated into the IEPs of SWD and their individual courses of study.
Increased student engagement, representation, and expression: During SY 2020-2021, many students were allowed to participate in virtual or hybrid instructional models to support safety while still receiving educational services. All students need increased opportunities for multiple means of engagement, representation, and expression. Still, they are critical for SWD, who require individualized accommodations or modifications to access the curriculum (especially considering the instructional model) to participate and make progress fully. Supporting Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles for students throughout all learning modalities continues to be a research-based framework for improving academic and interpersonal student achievement for all students, including SWD. Building on the incorporation of technology and multiple means

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<tr><td></td><td>of engagement, representation, and expression that grew exponentially out of necessity during SY 2020-2021, a focus on UDL principles for optimizing teaching and learning during SY 2021-2022 will assist SWD in continuing to access the general curriculum fully. It will ensure accommodations and modifications represent meaningful additional individualized support instead of simply lifelines for academic participation.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Students experiencing homelessness</td><td>

Students experiencing homelessness have been disproportionately represented in Arizona's data on chronic absenteeism. In SY2019-2020, on average 58.76% of students experiencing homeless were considered chronically absent.

<table>
<tr><th>All Students</th><th colspan="2">Total Number of Students Chronically Absent</th><th colspan="2">Total Number of Students Enrolled</th><th colspan="2">Total Percentage of Students Chronically Absent</th></tr>
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</table>

Students experiencing homelessness were not only among those students least likely to have access to a device at home or consistent access to internet service but also may have had limited access to free meals and any materials, resources, or supplies needed for learning. These challenges have impacted their ability to engage in distance or online learning successfully. As a result of missed time engaging in school, learning loss, and opportunities to have their individual social and emotional needs met, these students have been significantly impacted. They will need to be prioritized for services traditionally provided in and during the school day and much-needed services provided outside of the school day.

</td></tr>
<tr><td>Children and youth in foster care</td><td>

Students in foster care and group homes struggled with distance learning due to limited access to technology, on-site support, and needed materials and supplies, per feedback provided by the foster care community, including the Arizona Department of Child Services (DCS) Director. Children and youth in foster care in rural Arizona may have been even more impacted than their urban counterparts. Given these challenges, foster students will need targeted supports to address learning loss. These targeted interventions could include focused tutoring and afterschool services, with an additional focus on early reading proficiency, math skills in middle school, and credit recovery acceleration programs for high school students.
According to Arizona's Department of Child Safety (DCS) Director, students in foster care/group homes struggled with distance learning in SY20-21 due to limited access to technology, on-site support and needed materials and supplies to support their engagement in school. LEAs were required to provide on-site supports for youth that needed assistance in accessing and participating in remote learning per an Executive Order. However, many LEAs were challenged with providing consistent on-site support due to the high rates of COVID-19 cases in their area.

</td></tr>
</table>

Student group	Highest priority needs
	• Additionally, students in foster care and group homes also faced a high degree of isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Important social and emotional support systems and resilience building activities ceased or continued virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. • Students will have also missed opportunities to develop routines, learn systems and processes that are in place and followed when attending school in person. These challenges may be more acute with students returning during a transition point – such as moving from a middle school to high school setting. • Recent data from the Casey Family Programs, 2021 show that that 91% of students enter foster care due to neglect and other factors, such as includes parental substance abuse, child substance abuse, child disability, child behavior problems, parent death, parent incarceration, caretaker inability to cope, relinquishment or inadequate housing. Considering these data, some foster care students will not only have missed opportunities for learning, but also social and emotional, behavioral and mental health services and/or supports that are more readily provided during in-person learning. • Students will require supports regarding how to engage appropriately in a more traditional classroom environment. Teachers will also require professional learning support to positively address potential behavior challenges that may result from students returning to more structured learning environments. Absent these supports, there may be increases in detention, suspensions and expulsions for children and youth in foster care as they return to in-person instruction.
Migratory students	• Arizona currently serves over 11,451 migratory students. Almost half (5177) of our state's migrant students have been identified as *Priority for Service*. These students are failing or at risk of failing. 3767 students have been identified as dual labeled students, Migrant and EL. • Many of Arizona's migratory students live in rural communities. These communities faced the greatest barriers in internet connectivity, accessing free meals, and school supplies and materials. • Families of migratory students also struggled to find employment during the pandemic due to the nature of their work. Limited opportunities for work contributed to unstable living conditions and placed a significant social-emotional burden on students and their families. Systems and processes that ensure services that migratory families and students have a right to receive, must be re-established and provided in SY2021-2022.
Other groups of students identified by the State (e.g., youth involved in the criminal	• Children and youth being served by juvenile detention education programs and services already have unique academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. The impact of the pandemic further exacerbated these needs. ADE received feedback from the juvenile detention education community (including representatives from the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections, county-operated juvenile detention education programs and county school superintendents, and ADE Secure Care staff) on the following priority needs for these students:

Student group	Highest priority needs
justice system, students who have missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures, LGBTQ+ students)	• Given the impact of the trauma of the past year on existing challenges, there will be a need to provide evidence-based strategies to support the social, emotional, and mental health shown to be effective with these students, mainly through a trauma-informed instruction lens. There will further be a need to provide additional targeted academic interventions that are individualized and focused on meeting students' unique needs using a personalized learning approach. • Students served by juvenile detention education programs often present significant academic gaps unique to each child. These gaps were widened by the impact of the pandemic, as the ability to provide in-person instruction was limited and varied depending on the detention facility. Given this, the need to provide targeted, evidence-based interventions individualized based on each child's unique needs through a personalized learning approach will be critical to help address these learning gaps. • There are further needs to ensure intentional and consistent transition supports for students after being released from detention education and secure care programs. Without intentional supports and resources, students may go back to prior unhealthy environments post-release, which may not be positive and contribute to recidivism. Strengthening partnerships with the judicial system, schools, community-based organizations, and employers will help build relationships and bridges for students to successfully transition to traditional public-school programs. Mentorships, post-secondary access, job training, and job placement are also critical for vulnerable student populations.

4. Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Describe how the SEA will support its LEAs in identifying the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and student well-being, including identifying the groups of students most impacted by the pandemic. Where possible, please identify the data sources the SEA will suggest its LEAs use in thoughtfully diagnosing areas of need, including data on the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of lost instructional time.

Schools are required to complete the Arizona Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) annually. The process is designed to provide schools the necessary data to identify primary needs, root causes, desired outcomes, goals, strategies, and action steps resulting in an Integrated Action Plan. The CNA reflects the school's current state. It identifies strengths, needs, and desired outcomes specific to individual schools and their context. The six areas the CNA looks at are Effective Leadership, Effective Teachers and Instruction, Effective Use of Time, Effective Curriculum, Conditions, Climate, and Family and Community Engagement.

LEAs throughout Arizona currently use a variety of benchmark or interim assessments to determine progress towards standards mastery. Other student learning data come from screening, diagnostic assessments, classroom assessments, activities, and formative assessments. Offering professional learning around using multiple data points to inform instruction to close learning gaps such as processes from Bambrick-Santoyo, Driven by Data, as well as protocols and processes such as Lipton and Wellman's, Data-Driven Dialogue; ATLAS, Looking at Data (National School Reform Faculty); etc. will be important.

Gathering social, emotional, and mental well-being data is more problematic. Some LEAs in AZ currently participate in Panorama Education's Supporting Student Success surveys and analytics to collect reliable data to understand students, families, and staff better. Student data are collected directly from students through surveys. These LEAs will be able to assess and take action by using these data. Other LEAs may want to use ESSER funds to participate in this resource. Panorama provides support for analyzing and using these data.

FastBridge Assessment System from Illuminate Solutions is one of the assessment systems used by Arizona schools. In addition to ELA and Math assessments, they also have The Social, Academic, and Behavior Risk Screener (SAEBRS). It provides a clear link to the Arizona (CASEL) SEL Competencies and the behavioral manifestations. A brief teacher rating scale identifies students K-12 who may be at risk for social-emotional challenges and can be used as a universal screener.

Another high-quality SEL assessment is The Devereux Student Strengths Assessment and the 4-item accompanying screener. The DESSA-Mini are rating scales for K-8 mapped directly to SEL skills.

Without assessment resources in all schools, it will be necessary to support schools and LEAs to embed SEL throughout their back to school planning through two way communication with staff, students, families and community parents; staff community building, to reconnect and attend to adults SEL needs; provide professional learning to promote SEL, building solid relationships with students and creating a safe, supportive learning environment; supportive learning environment, building community, listening to students ideas and concerns; integrating SEL competencies throughout the school day, schoolwide, identifying ways all teachers help students enhance and practice competencies through distance learning and in-person settings, either through evidence-based programs, regular class meetings, group and individual check-ins, or instructional practices that allow for reflection, discussion, and collaboration; and student support, addressing tier I, II and III supports and protocols to identify students' needs as well partner with families and community agencies to proactively identify, provide, and monitor additional

supports to students who are struggling socially, emotionally, behaviorally, or academically.

Specific to youth mental health Arizona will provide information following guidelines and recommendations of such organizations as the National Alliance for Mental Health, Association for Children's Mental Health, Youth Mental Health First aid, Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network, National Center on Safe and Supportive Schools and the National Training and Technical Assistance Center. Currently, Arizona provides Project AWARE. The goals of Project AWARE are to build and expand capacity at state and local levels to improve access to mental health services and supports; to conduct outreach and training to increase mental health literacy; and reduce stigma and connect youth, families, and school staff to mental health services. ADE also provides Youth mental Health First Aid Training to educators and online QPR Suicide Prevention Training.

5. School Operating Status: It is essential to have data on how students are learning in order to support the goals of access and equity, especially for student groups that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Describe the current status of data collection on operational status and mode of instruction of all schools in your State. This description must include:
    i. A description of to what extent, and how frequently, the State collects now and will collect in the future data for all schools in your State on:
        a. Mode of instruction: The number of schools in your State that are offering fully remote or online-only instruction; both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid model); and/or full-time in-person instruction;
        b. Enrollment: Student enrollment for all students and disaggregated for each of the student groups described in A.3.i-viii for each mode of instruction; and
        c. Attendance: Student attendance for all students and disaggregated for each of the student groups described in A.3.i-viii for each mode of instruction.

In SY 2020-2021, Arizona LEAs were required to report the percentage of instructional time that was remote or online, but only at the LEA-level.

Arizona has provided data as of Mid-May 2021 for SY 2020-2021 for *School Operating Status and Instructional Mode* in Appendix A, Table 1. Data are provided for all schools, elementary schools (schools serving primarily grades K-8) and secondary schools (schools serving primarily grades 9-12). These tables assume that the percentage of instruction that was remote or online only was the same for all schools within the LEA, except or schools approved to

provide Arizona Online Instruction, which is entirely online. Unredacted data from the SY2020-2021 October 1st Enrollment Report was used to make school primary grade levels served determination for the purposes of this reporting.

Starting in SY2021-2022, *School Operating Status and Instructional Mode* data will be collected at the student level via the Arizona Education Data Standards (AzEDS) process. AzEDS is the vehicle for ADE to collect all student-level data from LEAs for school finance and state and federal reporting.

Leveraging AzEDS will allow for ADE to collect and report disaggregated student-level data reporting per the ongoing reporting requirements of Appendix A, Table 2 of the ARP ESSER State Plan Template, to include Mode of Instruction, Enrollment and Attendance for all students and disaggregated for each of the student groups described in A.3.i-viii for each mode of instruction (fully remote or online-only instruction; both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid model); and/or full-time in-person instruction).

SY2020-2021 State Policy Actions Regarding Modes of Instruction

June 24, 2020, Governor Ducey issued EO-2020-41, which allowed school to offer distance learning instruction outside of an approved online school model. This required all schools to submit a distance learning plan and identify ways to submit attendance for students in distance learning.

June 29, 2020, Governor Ducey issued EO-2020-44 requiring all schools to delay in-person classes until August 17, 2020, while beginning distance learning as no later than August 14, 2020.

July 23, 2020, Governor Ducey issued EO-2020-51 requiring all schools, **beginning August 17, 2020**, to offer free onsite learning opportunities and support services for students who needed a place to go during the day. School districts or charters that were experiencing an outbreak or were impacted by the stay-at-home orders of tribal sovereign nations could apply for a waiver from the requirement to provide onsite services.

March 3, 2021, Governor Ducey issued EO-2021-04 requiring all district and charter schools to return to in-person, teacher-led instruction following a scheduled spring break or by March 15, 2021. There was an exception for counties with substantial or high transmission to take measures to reduce or stagger attendance for in-person learning. Schools were not, however, prohibited from offering parents the choice for hybrid or remote instruction.

ii. The data described in A.5.i.a. and b. using the template in Appendix A (and to the extent available, the data described in A.5.i.c.) for the

most recent time period available. Please note that this data can be submitted separately within 14 calendar days after a State submits this plan. The SEA must also make this data publicly available on its website as soon as possible but no later than June 21, 2021, and regularly provide updated available information on its website. The Department will periodically review data listed in A.5.i on SEA websites.

School Operating Status and Instructional Mode Data

Data are reported as of Mid-May 2021 for SY 2020-2021

Table 1:

All Schools

Number of schools	All schools	Offered to all students	Offered to some students	Not offered
Remote or online only	498	498	0	1647
School buildings open with both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid)	1592	1592	0	553
School buildings open with full-time in-person instruction	55	55	0	2090

Elementary Schools (Schools serving primarily K-8)

Number of schools	All schools	Offered to all students	Offered to some students	Not offered
Remote or online only	315	315	0	1234
School buildings open with both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid)	1200	1200	0	349
School buildings open with full-time in-person instruction	34	34	0	1515

Secondary Schools (Schools serving primarily 9-12)

Number of schools	All schools	Offered to all students	Offered to some students	Not offered
Remote or online only	183	183	0	413
School buildings open with both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid)	392	392	0	204
School buildings open with full-time in-person instruction	21	21	0	575

The ARP ESSER - SY2020-2021 School Operating Status and Instructional Mode Data were posted on the ADE ARP ESSER website on June 21, 2021.

iii. To the extent available, a description of the planned operational status and mode of instruction for the State and its LEAs for Summer 2021 and for the 2021-2022 school year.

The data reported under Appendix A: *School Operating Status and Instructional Mode* are reflective of Mid-May 2021 and represent the general operation status for schools as of the end of the SY 2020-2021 school, and likely well-represents the projected status for schools entering Summer 2021. Our general expectation is that schools will return to in-person instruction for the SY 2021-2022.

LEAs may be able to offer hybrid or online learning modalities based on local needs if they meet state requirements to offer online instruction through an approved Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) entity within the LEA, or through flexibility offered through H.B. 2898 passed during the Spring 2021 legislative session (see below).

The Governor's Executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic terminated on June 30, 2021. Therefore, schools are not afforded the same flexibilities for mode of instruction as available during the 2020-2021 school year. During the 2021 Legislative Session, the Arizona Legislature passed H.B. 2862 (Laws 2021, Chapter 299) as amended by H.B. 2898. H.B. 2862 allows school districts and charter districts to adopt an Instructional Time Model (ITM) to meet the instructional hour requirements in A.R.S. §§ 15-808 and 15-901 which provides flexibility for a school district or charter district to determine the way instructional hours are provided to students, including: remote courses, project-based learning, mastery-based learning, weekend courses, or evening courses. Before a school district adopts an ITM, the school

district must hold at least two public hearings. School districts and charter schools intending to adopt an ITM must document how attendance will be tracked and taken for each setting in which a student is provided instructional time for auditing purposes.

B. Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining their Safe Operations

The Department recognizes that safely reopening schools and sustaining their safe operations to maximize in-person instruction is essential for student learning and student well-being, and especially for being able to address the educational inequities that have been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this section, SEAs will describe how they will support their LEAs in this vital area.

1. Support for LEAs: Describe how the SEA will support its LEAs in safely returning to in-person instruction and sustaining the safe operation of schools. This description must include:
    i. How the SEA will support its LEAs implementing, to the greatest extent practicable, prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff;

    Complete the table below, adding rows as necessary, or provide a narrative description.

    Table B1.

Mitigation strategy	**SEA response**
Universal and correct wearing of masks	See narrative response below
Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)	See narrative response below
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	See narrative response below
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	See narrative response below
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	See narrative response below
Diagnostic and screening testing	See narrative response below
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	See narrative response below
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	See narrative response below

ADE has collaborated with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), as well as County Health Departments to support schools in implementing strategies consistent with CDC recommended mitigation strategies to support schools and ensure the safety of students, families and staff throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

This collaboration has included coordinated messaging and communications for schools and the community regarding CDC safety guidelines and recommendations (to include testing and vaccination efforts) as well as navigating Arizona's Executive Orders regarding distance learning, requiring

onsite services, the use of face coverings and reopening schools for in-person learning.

ADE, ADHS and County Health Departments have also collaborated regarding how best to coordinate and leverage federal recovery resources that may be available across each agency, and by schools (such as through each of the ESSER funds) to support effective, efficient and sustained safe reopening of schools statewide. The intent is to identify gaps in support, and to also avoid potential duplication of effort as each agency works to support their stakeholders.

ADE has also shared the CDC's operational strategy for schools and childcare facilities, as well as Volume 1 and 2 of ED's COVID-19 Handbooks and other key resources for schools on ADE's Strategies for Safe In-Person Learning for Elementary and Secondary Schools website.

On April 19, 2021, Governor Ducey issued an Executive Order rescinding a section of Executive Order 2020-51, directing schools to require face masks, and Emergency Measure 2020-04, issued by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) outlining requirements for mask usage in schools. The Arizona Department of Education has encouraged local education agencies and families to continue to follow CDC guidance.

On June 30, 2021, The Arizona State Legislature passed a budget (HB2898) with a provision that explicitly bans LEA's from mandating mask use on school campuses. The Arizona Department of Education continues to stress the importance of universal and correct use of masks and encourages LEA's to work with their school communities to ensure consistent and correct usage of masks to the greatest extent possible.

ii. Any Statewide plans, policies, estimated timelines, and specific milestones related to reopening and operation of school facilities, including any mechanisms the SEA will use to track, monitor, or enforce their implementation;

Regarding SY2020-2021:

In June 2020, ADE released a Roadmap for Reopening Schools that was developed in partnership with public health experts and stakeholders across the Arizona. It included specific considerations for leaders, teachers, students, and families regarding COVID mitigation. It also included a Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) Template. At the time of its release, however, there was no statewide policy or required benchmarks for reopening—local policies varied regarding COVID and school reopening.

On March 3, 2021 the Arizona Governor issued Executive Order 2021-04 *Open for In-Person Learning*. Per this order, schools were required to return to in-person learning by March 15, 2021, or after their scheduled Spring Break. Exceptions to this order were included for middle and high schools located in counties with "high" transmission of COVID-19, as defined by the CDC. Students were also given the option to continue to participate in distance learning if that was the choice of their parent or guardians. All LEA were required to submit an attestation that all schools within each LEA's jurisdiction were following the tenets of the executive order.

Throughout SY 2020-2021, all Arizona LEAs were required to report the percentage of instructional time that was remote or online only at the LEA-level through the submission of Distance Learning Plans. ADE provided guidance on this policy through its School Finance unit.

Regarding SY2021-2022:
Starting in SY2021-2022, *School Operating Status and Instructional Mode* data will be collected at the student level per the ongoing reporting requirements of Appendix A, Table 2 of the ARP ESSER State Plan Template, to include Mode of Instruction, Enrollment and Attendance for all students and disaggregated for each of the student groups described in A.3.i-viii for each mode of instruction (fully remote or online-only instruction; both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid model); and/or full-time in-person instruction).

ADE has created a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services* LEA plan template to support LEAs receiving ARP ESSER funds to meet the requirements of ARP Sec. 2001(i) and ED's Interim Final Rule (IFR). ADE has also posted guidance and support materials to support LEAs with revising their local plans and has set the expectation for LEAs to submit their plan to ADE by their first day of the SY 2020-2021 school year – with updates to be submitted at least every 6 months, or more often depending on updates in CDC guidance, through September 30, 2023. ADE will track the submission of LEA plans to ensure and monitor the ongoing compliance with these requirements.

iii. To what extent the SEA and its LEAs consult with Federal, State, and local health officials. This description should include, if available, whether the SEA and its LEAs have received support for screening testing from their State or local health department based on funding awarded by the CDC; and

The ADE has had regular collaborative meetings with both the Arizona Department of Health Services and County Health Departments.

This collaboration has included coordinated messaging and communications for schools and the community regarding CDC safety guidelines and recommendations (to include testing and vaccination efforts) as well as navigating Arizona's Executive Orders regarding distance learning, requiring onsite services, the use of face coverings and reopening schools for in-person learning.
ADE, ADHS and County Health Departments have also collaborated regarding how best to coordinate and leverage existing and new federal recovery resources that may be available across each agency, and by schools (such as through each of the ESSER funds) to support effective, efficient and sustained safe reopening of schools statewide. The intent is to identify gaps in support, and to also avoid potential duplication of effort as each agency works to support their stakeholders.

ADHS is further leveraging nearly $215 million in American Rescue Plan funds from the CDC in partnership with ADE to support a statewide voluntary, free pooled testing program to "detect, diagnose, trace and monitor COVID-19 and prevent its spread" in Arizona K-12 schools. This voluntary program will help reduce the cost burden on LEAs to offer pooled testing as a CDC suggested mitigation strategy to support the safe reopening and continuous operations of their schools in SY2021-2022.

iv. Any guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities the SEA will make available to its LEAs.

ADE, ADHS and County Health Departments have collaborated on how best to coordinate communications, messaging and technical assistance resources to support the safe reopening and continuous operations of schools statewide. This has included coordinating on how to provide timely, focused supports for school leaders on how to implement recommended CDC mitigation strategies. ADE has also worked to amplify key information and resources for schools, particularly as changes in mitigation strategies have been announced based on changing conditions and contexts and updates in CDC guidance.

This collaboration has included coordinated messaging and communications for schools and the community regarding testing and vaccination efforts as well as navigating Arizona's Executive Orders regarding distance learning, requiring onsite services, the use of face coverings and reopening schools for in-person learning.

2. Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans: Describe how the SEA will ensure that its LEAs that receive ARP ESSER funds meet the requirements in section 2001(i) of the ARP Act and the requirements relating to the ARP ESSER funds published in the Federal Register and available at https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief/ (ARP ESSER requirements) to either: (a) within 30 days of receipt of the funds, develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services, or (b) have developed and made publicly available on the LEA's website such a plan that meets statutory requirements before the enactment of the ARP Act, including:
    i. How the SEA will ensure that each LEA plan includes, or will be modified to include, the extent to which it has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the strategies listed in table B1;
    ii. How the SEA will ensure that each LEA plan describes how it will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services;
    iii. How the SEA will ensure that the LEA periodically reviews, no less frequently than every six months for the duration of the ARP ESSER grant period (i.e., through September 30, 2023),[2] and revises as appropriate, its plan, and how the SEA will ensure that the LEA seeks public input, and takes such input into account on (1) whether revisions are necessary and, if so, (2) the revisions to the plan; and
    iv. Describe, to the extent the SEA collects it, information about LEA implementation, to the greatest extent practicable, of each element of the most up-to-date CDC guidance listed in table B1 and its LEAs' needs for support and technical assistance to implement strategies consistent, to the greatest extent practicable, with relevant CDC guidance.

ADE has included a required assurance as part of the LEA ARP ESSER grant application that requires an LEA to assure compliance with ARP Sec. 2001(i) and ED's Interim Final Rule regarding the LEA Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan requirement.

Additionally, ADE has created a standardized *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services* LEA plan template to support LEAs receiving ARP ESSER funds to meet this requirement. The template was designed to ensure compliance with all required local plan components of ED's Interim Final Rule, to include LEAs

[2] ARP ESSER funds are subject to the Tydings amendment in section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act, 20 U.S.C. 1225(b), and are therefore available to SEAs and LEAs for obligation through September 30, 2024. Review and revisions of these plans, if necessary, are not required during the Tydings period.

providing a description of the process used to gather, and consider, public input in the creation and revision of their local plan.

ADE has posted guidance and support materials to support LEAs with revising their local plans on the agency's ARP ESSER website, and has set the expectation for LEAs to submit their plan to ADE by their first day of the SY 2021-2022 school year – with updates to be submitted at least every 6 months, or more often depending on updates in CDC guidance and changes in local contexts, through September 30, 2023. ADE will track the submission of LEA plans to ensure and monitor the ongoing compliance with these requirements.

ADE does not currently collect information regarding LEA implementation of CDC guidance but will do so moving forward with the SY2021-2022 school year based on the implementation and monitoring of the ARP Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan requirements.

C. Planning for the Use and Coordination of ARP ESSER Funds

The Department recognizes that seeking input from diverse stakeholders is essential to developing plans for the use of ARP ESSER funds that are responsive to the needs of students, families, and educators. In this section, SEAs will describe their plans for consultation and for coordinating the use of ARP ESSER funds with other resources to meet the needs of students.

1. SEA Consultation: Consistent with the ARP ESSER requirements, describe how the SEA engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders, and incorporated input into its plan, including, but not limited to:
    i. students;
    ii. families;
    iii. Tribes (if applicable);
    iv. civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations);
    v. school and district administrators (including special education administrators);
    vi. superintendents;
    vii. charter school leaders (if applicable);
    viii. teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions; and
    ix. stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

    The description must include how the SEA provided the public the opportunity to provide input in the development of the plan, a summary of the input (including any letters of support), and how the SEA took such input into account.

Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration with Arizona's Education Community

ADE utilized its standing meetings/processes with stakeholders to discuss ESSER set aside funds, including the particular focus areas designated by ARP for ARP ESSER. These meetings have included:

- **ADE and Arizona Education Organizations Weekly Calls:** These calls started shortly after the declaration of the national emergency for COVID-19 in March 2020. These weekly standing meetings helped to ensure coordinated communication and timely collaboration that informed local, regional, and statewide responses throughout the pandemic. Feedback was provided to inform communications, support, and technical assistance for schools and communities to help them navigate local relief and recovery efforts, public health guidelines, and Executive Orders from the Governor's Office. Representatives from the following education organizations have participated in these ongoing meetings: Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA), Arizona School Administrators (ASA), Arizona Association of School Business Officials (AASBO), Arizona Charter Schools Association (ACSA), Arizona Association of County School

Superintendents (AACSS), Arizona Education Association (AEA) Arizona Rural Schools Association (ARSA), Greater Phoenix Education Management Council and Arizona Education Management Council (GPEMC/AEMC).

- ADE further partnered with the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA), Arizona School Administrators (ASA), Arizona Association of School Business Officials (AASBO), and the Arizona Charter Schools Association (ACSA) to provide Collaborative Webinars to support ESSER implementation. All ADE presentations to support the implementation of each major recovery act (CARES, CRRSA, ARP Acts) and each ESSER fund opportunity (I, II, and ARP ESSER) and related requirements have been done in concert with education organizations. This collaborative partnership has helped ensure clear and consistent communication across stakeholder groups and served to expand the reach of the agency's message. ADE also provided targeted communications and technical assistance in partnership with organizations such as the Arizona Rural Schools Association, County School Superintendents, the Greater Phoenix Education Management Council, Arizona Education Management Council, Tribal Leaders, Alternative Education Consortium, and Career and Technical Education Districts.

- **Education Leaders Weekly Calls:** ADE established weekly virtual meetings with education leaders statewide – to include Superintendents and other district and school-level leaders. This served as a vehicle to ensure clear, consistent communication of information, resources and guidance to support their schools to navigate the shift from online/distance learning to hybrid and face-to-face instruction and preparing for the safe reopening of schools throughout the SY 2020-2021 school year. These weekly calls will continue into SY 2021-2022

- **Superintendent's Advisory Councils** are convened by the State Superintendent to inform the work of the agency. This existing capacity was leveraged to provide timely feedback regarding the impact of COVID-19 within specific communities, and how the agency could best respond to meet those needs. Each advisory council has a unique membership, although each council includes educators, as well as student representatives:
    - African American Advisory Council
    - Equitable and Inclusive Practices Advisory Council
    - Indian Education Advisory Council
    - Latinx Advisory Council
    - Student Advisory Council

- **Monthly ADE Policy & Program updates** were held virtually with education organizations (including advocacy groups and non-profit service organizations), as well as legislative and executive branch staff.

- **Monthly ADE** Office of Indian Education (OIE) **Policy & Program Updates specifically targeted for Indigenous Stakeholders**, including tribal education

department staff. OIE works statewide to support educational opportunities for Indigenous students attending Arizona's public schools. The capacity of this office was expanded using ESSER funds to further support the unique recovery needs of Indigenous families and their schools, especially given the outsized impact of COVID-19 on tribal communities.

Equitable & Effective Schools Task Force

ADE gathered research and community input via its Equitable and Effective School Funding Task Force to develop a set of recommendations on the distribution and prioritized use of SEA discretionary ARP ESSER funds.

This task force had convened initially to work together throughout the fall semester of 2020 to identify critical needs and action steps to address the pandemic and ongoing recovery. The task force was reconvened in June 2021 to provide input on SEA discretionary ARP ESSER fund allocation decisions. ADE expanded its membership to include a broader set of stakeholders for this purpose.

Over 100 stakeholders, representing school district and charter leadership, philanthropy, the non-profit sector representative, early childhood practitioners and advocates, major education associations, special education advocacy groups, school board members, educators, and state agency leadership joined the reconvened task force meetings.

ADE staff worked closely with contracted facilitators familiar with the education landscape in Arizona to hold two stakeholder meetings in June 2021. By leveraging task force member expertise, the agency:

- Gathered data on how LEAs are planning to address learning loss
- Built understanding of existing capacity and resource gaps in areas outlined by the ARP ESSER state-level discretionary funds
- Explored opportunities for innovation with one-time funding
- Identified systems-level policies and practices needed to support effective use of funds under ARP ESSER requirements and areas of focus

Task force facilitators also solicited information on anticipated guidance and technical assistance needed from ADE to support the use of the funds, and how to monitor and evaluate effectiveness.

The facilitators surveyed participants ahead of the first meeting on these topics. To inform the discussion, task force members were also provided information on ARP, research and policy briefs on learning loss, summer enrichment, afterschool programs, and promising pandemic responses from other states. Some initial themes from the pre-meeting survey include:

- Staffing programs is challenging right now
- Prioritize students who need the most
- Ensure quality programming for all
- Lack of infrastructure is still a barrier to access
- Increased demand means the work needs to grow fast

- Promote quality programming and partnerships
- Flexibility is critical

The facilitators also reached out to ADE's Student Advisory Council with similar survey questions about current conditions and what they would like to see. Themes from the student survey include:

- Support for mental health, including more access to counselors
- Return to physical health and movement, including sports, is important
- Students want academic tutoring
- A desire for more in-person experiences for vaccinated youth
- Schools need to support the return to school and foster a love of learning
- Teachers need supports so that schools can retain veteran teachers

Student responses were shared with the task force and incorporated into the final recommendations.

Themes and recommendations from Task Force Meeting #1:

***On impact and use of one-time funds dedicated to key ARP ESSER areas include**:

- Social-Emotional Learning support
- Mental health and trauma-informed support for students and staff; and
- Support for families, especially when students are at critical transitions in their academic career

***On the funding process:**

- Desire for ADE to vet and fund a list of services available to LEAs
- Make available start-up/planning/exploratory funds
- Support LEAs with navigating evidence-based approaches
- Support partnership between LEAs and CBOs and/or universities

Themes and recommendations from Task Force Meeting #2:

- Prioritize student and adult social emotional learning, mental & physical health, K-12 transitions, especially early education
- Focus on school, LEA, CBO, state-level capacity and overall strategies
- Data (including comprehensive data system), professional development, and assessments are resources that will be needed across priority areas to support work going forward.

The input from stakeholders was used to develop the priorities outlined as part of this plan. It will also be used to guide ADE's process for determining state-driven interventions and investments, processes for distributing funds, and setting criteria for use of funds and data reporting and evaluation.

Stakeholder Groups	How the SEA provided the public the opportunity to provide input in the development of the plan
Students	Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, ARP ESSER State Plan Student Survey
Families	Equitable and Effective Schools Taskforce
Tribes	Indian Education Advisory Council; Office of Indian Tribal Leaders in Education Convening Meetings
Civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations)	Equitable and Effective Schools Taskforce; ADE Monthly Policy and Program Updates Meetings
School and district administrators (including special education administrators);	Equitable and Effective Schools Taskforce; Education Leaders Weekly Call; ADE and Education Organizations Weekly Call; ASA; GPEMC
Superintendents	Equitable and Effective Schools Taskforce; Education Leaders Weekly Call; ADE and Education Organizations Weekly Call; ASA; GPEMC
Charter school leaders	Equitable and Effective Schools Taskforce; Education Leaders Weekly Call; ADE and Education Organizations Weekly Call; ACSA
Teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions	Equitable and Effective Schools Taskforce; Education Leaders Weekly Call; ADE and Education Organizations Weekly Call; AEA; ASA; GPEMC
Stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students	Equitable and Effective Schools Taskforce; Education Leaders Weekly Call; ADE and Education Organizations Weekly Call; Feedback sessions with Juvenile Detention Education Programs Stakeholders; Feedback sessions with Children and Youth in Foster Care Stakeholders, to include Children's Action Alliance, Arizona's Children Association and Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation

2. Coordinating Funds: Describe to what extent the SEA has and will coordinate Federal COVID-19 pandemic funding and other Federal funding. This description must include:
    i. How the SEA and its LEAs 1) are using or have used prior to the submission of this plan and 2) plan to use following submission of this plan, Federal COVID-19 funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act and the CRRSA Act to support a safe return to and safely maximize in-person instruction, sustain these operations safely, and address the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individual student groups (including students from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial or ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students);

    Complete the table below or provide a narrative description.

ADE's overarching goal with ESSER funds is to support communities recovering from COVID-19, position our state's education system to better support student success, and ensure Arizona has a 21st-century ready workforce. ADE plans to use its SEA's reserve to support emergency needs statewide strategically and equitably to reach students and communities in each of Arizona's fifteen counties.

Each of ADE's current and future investments using ESSER funds follows a rubric to ensure these funds:

- Support students and communities most impacted by COVID-19
- Expand schools' access to evidence-based programs and training
- Address multiple factors that impact students' academics, including: social-emotional wellbeing, educator workforce shortages, and family internet connectivity

All publicly announced projects funded by ESSER SEA set-aside funds are posted on the agency's website. Each project currently falls into one of the following categories:

- Student Equity and Achievement
- Educator Recruitment and Retention
- Safe and Healthy Schools
- Serving Arizona's School Community through the Pandemic and Beyond
- Post-Secondary Access and Attainment
- Additional Recovery Funding to Public Schools (additional funds to support Non-Title I-A LEAs, Career & Technical Education District (CTEDs) and additional support for Title I-A LEAs)

ADE is further committed to measuring and evaluating the success and impact of these investments.

Table C1.

Funding source	Prior/current SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)	Planned SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)
ESSER I (CARES Act)	**SEA ESSER I Set-Aside Funded Projects** **Arizona College Access Network - $10,000** College Access Professional (CAP) Training) to train ADE staff to facilitate virtual/hybrid training for teachers to increase postsecondary attainment throughout Arizona, with a focus on low-income and underserved populations. **Teaching Reading Effectively (TRE) Online Course - $6,750** This funding was used to support the use of a virtual platform for a training that is normally done in-person. **Arizona Virtual Teacher Institute - $2,500,000** Provide all educators free professional development to advance digital teaching and learning skills. Partnership with ASU Prep Digital **University of Arizona's Center for Recruitment & Retention of Math Educators for Professional Development - $500,000** Ensure all math educators, including those in special education, have access to the various resources, supports, and professional development offered by the University of Arizona's Center for Recruitment and Retention (CRR). **Math Momentum - $600,000** *(Total not to exceed $9.6M through use of ESSER II and III)*. Math Momentum will promote active learning as lesson pathways cater to individual knowledge and skills, motivating and supporting both struggling and advanced learners. This investment will support a summer pilot program with eight districts using a digital learning model, then expand	**SEA ESSER I Set-Aside Funded Projects** **Parent Educator Academy: All in Education - $1,000,000** The Parent Educator Academy is designed to place passionate parents in the classrooms of schools to shift the trajectory on workforce development to start growing talent where it matters most – parents – and advancing them into future positions of influence. This investment will allow All in Education to expand to additional districts and counties over the next three years. **LEA ESSER I Activities** LEA planned uses of funds for the remainder of the ESSER I period of availability largely appear to track the summary of the most common school uses of ESSER I recovery funds to date listed in the prior/current SEA and LEA uses of funds column.

Funding source	Prior/current SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)	Planned SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)
	based on demand in the 21-22 school year and beyond. The program will be targeted to LEAs where there is not access to a qualified math teacher or Algebra courses in the middle school grade bands. **YMCA, and Boys & Girls Club - $2,309,000** Support for the YMCA and the Arizona Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs to provide capacity to support onsite services, to support Arizona youth who do not have access to technology or adult supervision at home to complete school curriculum, and to support childcare and extended day opportunities for families to accommodate workforce hours - particularly for essential workers. **Special Education Compensatory Services Fund - $5,000,000** Support public schools in determining which students with disabilities may need compensatory services and aid in the delivery of those services. **Additional LEA Assistance - $14,050,179.49** Additional support for Title I-A LEAs, Non-Title I-A LEAs, and Career Technical Education Districts (CTEDs) **LEA ESSER I Activities** To date, LEAs have drawn down ~68% of their total ESSER I awards. The following is a summary of the most common school uses of ESSER I recovery funds to date: **Technology for distance and hybrid learning** • Devices, software, internet service/hotspots, and IT support, infrastructure, and security	

Funding source	Prior/current SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)	Planned SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)
	• Professional learning for teachers and administrators • Technology support for students and families **Personal protective equipment and safety supplies** • Face masks, face shields, plexiglass, gloves, gowns, thermometers, hand sanitizer • Cleaning/disinfecting supplies and equipment and facilities costs • HVAC systems upgrades, air purifiers, water bottle filling stations **Food services and transportation expenses** **Salary expenses** for expanded duties, retention, and additional staffing needs **Social emotional learning and mental health supports**	
GEER I (CARES Act)	Arizona's Governor's Office manages GEER I funds. However, ADE does have an agreement to manage an LEA grant program: Acceleration Academies. This program supports eligible high-need schools to provide targeted professional learning to build capacity of teachers, implement evidence-based instructional strategies, purchase evidence-based curriculum materials and support summer instruction offset summer learning loss. School eligibility for the Acceleration Academies was determined using multiple factors, including: • Free and Reduced Lunch applications • Not Proficient AzMERIT ELA and Math scores (state assessment data) • Unemployment claims in corresponding zip codes • COVID cases in corresponding zip codes	Arizona's Governor's Office manages GEER I funds. ADE will continue to manage the Acceleration Academies LEA grant program via an agreement with the Governor's Office through September 30, 2022.

Funding source	Prior/current SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)	Planned SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)
	• No access to computer in corresponding zip codes • No access to internet in corresponding zip codes The Acceleration Academies program is funded at $18,996,325, supporting 181 funded school sites within 89 participating LEAs.	
ESSER II (CRRSA Act)	**<u>SEA ESSER II Set-Aside Funded Projects</u>** **Addition of 140 School Counselor & Social Worker Positions through the School Safety Grant Program - $21,300,000** Provides funding for 140 new school counselors and social worker positions by investing in the School Safety Grant Program waitlists. **Arizona Ready for School Campaign - $1,550,000** Public relations campaign developed with feedback from education stakeholders to support student re-engagement with in-person learning **Expanding Rural Broadband with the Final Mile Project - $1,500,000** Bring reliable, high-speed internet access to rural Arizona students by extending existing broadband capacity at schools and libraries to students' homes. **Arizona College Access Network - $20,000** College Access Professional (CAP) Training) to train ADE staff to facilitate virtual/hybrid training for teachers to increase postsecondary attainment throughout Arizona, with a focus on low-income and underserved populations. **Office of Indian Education (OIE) Expansion - $667,000** *(total investment $1M to include ARP ESSER)* The ADE Office of Indian education works statewide to support educational opportunities	**<u>SEA ESSER II Set-Aside Funded Projects</u>** **Ask Benji Chatbot: Increase FAFSA Completion Rates - $1,500,000** Ask Benji is an artificial intelligence-powered chatbot that assists students in completing the FAFSA. The funding will be used over the next two years to expand Ask Benji's services statewide, enhance the chatbot to include new service features such as career interest and college application assistance, and provide support for community activities. **Opportunities for Youth - $100,000** OFY works to connect disconnected or "opportunity" youth ages 16-24 with education or employment opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased the number of youths in need of being reconnected. This investment will support the ongoing work of OFY and its partners across Maricopa County. **AdviseAZ Americorps: College and Career Counseling - $600,000** AdviseAZ places current college students and recent college graduates as part-time advisers in high schools throughout the state. They collaborate with school leadership to enhance the school's college and career culture. This new funding will be used to support AdviseAZ AmeriCorps member placement in more high schools across Arizona.

Funding source	Prior/current SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)	Planned SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)
	for indigenous students attending Arizona's public schools. More capacity is needed in this office to support the unique recovery needs of indigenous families and their schools, especially given the outsized impact of COVID-19 on tribal communities. **Math Momentum - $6,00,000** *(Total not to exceed $9.6M through use of ESSER II and ARP ESSER)*. Math Momentum will promote active learning as lesson pathways cater to individual knowledge and skills, motivating and supporting both struggling and advanced learners. This investment will support a summer pilot program with eight districts using a digital learning model, then expand based on demand in the 21-22 school year and beyond. The program will be targeted to LEAs where there is not access to a qualified math teacher or Algebra courses in the middle school grade bands. **Discovery Education -- $7,000,000** (*Total not to exceed $19.5M through use of ESSER II and ARP ESSER)*. All Arizona educators and students will receive access to Discovery Education's award-winning K-12 learning platform as a teaching and learning resource aligned to state standards to supplement local curriculum. **Social Emotional Learning: Trauma-Sensitive Training and Support for Schools - $100,000** Free professional development for educators to implement trauma-informed methods and new SEL competencies into their classrooms. **Kajeet Hotspots for Students & Families - $15,000** Provides monthly reoccurring service for 200 hotspots across the state for students.	**Special Education Cost Study - $500,000** It has been fourteen years since Arizona last commissioned a special education cost study, leaving policymakers with outdated information to inform legislative decisions. This study is a valuable tool needed to show the actual cost required to meet all students' needs and advocate for additional funding as needed. **Arizona K-12 Center: New Teacher Mentoring - $2,500,000** Expands capacity for the Arizona K12 Center's educator mentoring program. Experienced mentors work directly with new teachers to support them during their first years in the classroom. This evidence-based retention strategy is key to long-term success in the classroom. **Diné Institute Teacher Fellows: Northern Arizona University - $1,500,000** The Diné Institute strengthens teaching in schools serving Navajo students by engaging all interested teachers in long-term professional development seminars to increase content knowledge, curriculum development skills, capacity to deliver culturally responsive lessons, and leadership ability. This investment will allow the program to expand to 40 fellows in 2021. **Laptop and Hotspot Partnership with City of Phoenix - $853,000** Phoenix Public Library will launch a laptop and hotspot lending program in the spring of 2021 with a fleet of 425 laptops and 200 hotspots to be lent to customers with one-week lending periods. To better serve students in need of longer lending periods, ADE's investment will allow for an expansion to double the number of laptops and hotspots available, allocating half of the

Funding source	Prior/current SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)	Planned SEA and LEA uses (including funding amounts, if applicable)
	Additional LEA Assistance - $49,856,390.66 Additional support for Title I-A LEAs, Non-Title I-A LEAs, and Career Technical Education Districts (CTEDs) **<u>LEA ESSER II Activities</u>** To date, LEAs have drawn down ~8% of their total ESSER II awards. LEA uses of funds for ESSER II generally aligns with the uses of funds summary provided for ESSER I. LEAs have, however, budgeted additional funds for activities such as: • Recruitment and retention stipends for teachers and staff • Summer school programs and activities • Curriculum and instructional supplies (to include technology related hardware and software) to help increase learning opportunities for students • Social, emotional and mental health supports for students and staff • Facilities expenses, to include upgrading HVAC systems to improve indoor air quality, to support safe reopening of schools for in-person learning for students and staff	collection specifically reserved to meet the needs of students. College Depot at Phoenix Public Library staff would help identify the youth and provide semester-long and summer lending periods. **Time is Now Youth Mentorship: Big Brothers, Big Sisters - $300,000** Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona (BBBSAZ) provides in-school, community-based, and virtual mentoring programs to help at-risk youth reach their full potential. This investment will allow BBBSAZ to match 200 vulnerable, low-income youth (100 each year over a 2-year period) with screened and trained adult mentors and other resources. **Holistic Youth Transformation Program: New Pathways for Youth - $500,000** Provides comprehensive, evidence-based programming to improve the educational outcomes of at-risk students attending Title I schools in Maricopa County. **<u>LEA ESSER II Activities</u>** LEA planned uses of funds for the remainder of the ESSER II period of availability largely appear to track the summary of the most common school uses of ESSER II recovery funds to date listed in the prior/current SEA and LEA uses of funds column.
GEER II (CRRSA Act)	Arizona's Governor's Office manages GEER II funds.	Arizona's Governor's Office manages GEER II funds.

ii. To what extent ESSER I and ESSER II funds have been awarded to LEAs and, if funds have not yet been made available to LEAs, when they will be. In addition, please provide any available information on the total dollar amounts of ESSER I and ESSER II funds that have

been obligated but not expended by the SEA and its LEAs, including whether the SEA is able to track LEA obligations.

The following data are provided as of 7/18/2021:

ESSER I LEA allocations and grant applications were released on **May 29, 2020**

- $263,429,711.10 was awarded to Title I-A and Non-Title I-LEAs and entities through ESSER I.
- $177,819,010.03 has been drawn down, representing 68% of all LEA ESSER I grant awards. Title I-A LEAs (mandatory subgrantees) have drawn down $170,433,434.56, or 67% of their total awards. Non-Title I-A LEAs (funded through SEA reserved funds) have drawn down $7,385,575.47, or 70% of their total awards.

ESSER II LEA allocations and grant applications were released on **February 18, 2021**

- $1,084,600,742.83 was awarded to Title I-A and Non-Title I-LEAs and entities through ESSER II.
- $85,167,821.66 has been drawn down, representing 8% of all LEA ESSER II grant awards. Title I-A LEAs (mandatory subgrantees) have drawn down $80,978,643.72, or 8% of their total awards. Non-Title I-A LEAs (funded through SEA reserved funds) have drawn down $4,189,177.94, or 10% of their total awards.

ARP ESSER LEA allocations and grant application were released on **May 24, 2021**

- $2,367,408,840.35 was awarded to Title I-A and Non-Title I-LEAs and entities through ARP ESSER.

ADE is not currently able to track LEA obligations. To do so will require a new LEA data submission and collection process. ADE is the in process of reviewing the proposed data collection and reporting requirements for ESSER I, II and III released by ED on July 2, 2021. The proposed business rules are extensive and will require the creation of new collection and reporting capacities at the SEA to capture new fiscal and programmatic data elements from LEA ESSER fund grantees.

iii. In supporting LEAs as they plan for the safe return to and continuity of in-person instruction and for meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the extent to which the SEA is also using

other Federal funding sources including but not limited to under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ("ESEA"), IDEA, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act ("WIOA"), funding for child nutrition services, and McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and the funds to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness provided by section 2001(b)(1) of the ARP Act.[3]

ADE has an established Strategic Funding Support Team. The team is comprised of senior leadership representing the primary decision makers for all agency grant programs. The goals of this team have been to streamline internal processes, support LEAs in planning for an applying for grant funds and to develop collaborative technical assistance for LEAs to support local efficient spending, and effectively utilize agency funding to support students, teachers, leaders, families, and communities.

This Strategic Funding Support Team has:

- Provided cross-functional internal leadership and internal staff professional learning
- Created partnerships and provided guidance to LEAs to support strategic use of funding, and,
- Continues to build agency-wide technical assistance and support systems.

Additionally, ADE staff capacity is being expanded to support providing technical assistance and programmatic monitoring for LEA grantees. These positions will also support LEAs through developing and providing guidance and trainings for LEAs for the ESSER funds programs and on developing and maintaining collaborative relationships with local, regional, and state community partners to support implementation efforts.

A particular focus will be on supporting local strategic, integrated planning and budgeting and sustainability planning. The intent is to ensure LEAs can effectively utilize their ESSER funds in an integrated manner in concert with other local, state and federal funds, and to proactively plan and identify how local funding sources may be used to effectively sustain programs and strategies when the ESSER funds expire.

[3] Please note that the needs of students experiencing homelessness must be addressed (along with the other groups disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic) through the use of the ARP ESSER SEA reservations and the required LEA reservation for the academic impact of lost instructional time; the funding provided to support the needs of students experiencing homelessness by section 2001(b)(1) of the ARP Act is in addition to the supports and services provided with ARP ESSER funds.

To further support our LEAs, ADE applied for and received a fiscal waiver from ED to waive the carryover limitation for FY2020 Title I-A funds and extend the period of availability for FY2019 ESEA funds. This has supported our LEAs to leverage their ESEA funds more effectively to support local needs given the disruptive impact of the pandemic from Spring 2020 through the SY 2020-2021 school year. Additionally, ADE received a programmatic waiver for Title IV-A content area spending requirements and the 15% limitation on the use of funds for technology infrastructure to provide additional flexibility for LEAs to leverage their Title IV-A funds to support local needs. ADE has applied for a renewal of both the ESEA fiscal and Title IV-A programmatic waivers to provide our LEAs further local flexibility as they prepare for the safe return to in-person instruction in SY 2020-2021.

The ADE Health and Nutrition Services (HNS) Unit has supported LEAs with guidance for Child Nutrition Program operators, particularly regarding navigating COVID-19 guidance provided by USDA and the agency to help ensure students have had access to nutritious meals both during school closures, throughout the school year and during the summer. HNS has also supported the implementation of the Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) program for eligible families.

D. Maximizing State-Level Funds to Support Students

The Department recognizes that States have an extraordinary opportunity to address the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on underserved students through the ARP Act's required State set-asides to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, provide summer learning and enrichment programs, and provide comprehensive afterschool

programs. In this section, SEAs will describe their evidence-based strategies for these resources.

1. Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time: Describe how the SEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(f)(1) of the ARP Act (totaling not less than 5 percent of the State's total allocation of ARP ESSER funds) on evidence-based interventions to address the academic impact of lost instructional time by supporting the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. The description must include:
    i. A description of the evidence-based interventions (e.g., providing intensive or high-dosage tutoring, accelerating learning) the SEA has selected, and the extent to which the SEA will evaluate the impact of those interventions on an ongoing basis to understand if they are working;

As noted above in Section C.2. Table C1, ADE has selected several specific, evidence-based interventions that address the academic impact of lost instructional time. Many of these interventions may be extended into an additional year using ARP ESSER funds depending on proven effectiveness and demand from field for on-going intervention. Interventions were selected based on ADE's strategic priorities, a rubric for impact, and recommendations from stakeholders.

Regarding additional evidence-based interventions and the designated ARP ESSER funds, ADE intends to focus on the following priorities identified by stakeholders, including:

1) **Enrichment and reinforcement to learning**
2) **Mental, behavioral, and physical health support for students and educators**
3) **Student and family re-engagement and support for critical academic transition periods**

The selection process for additional and on-going interventions will include:

- Establishing a working group of internal experts and stakeholders for each priority area.
- Generating and evaluating targeted, evidence-based strategies available for vulnerable populations in Arizona.
- Setting criteria for funding; including determining tiered or prioritized level of support for LEAs or communities based on available COVID-impact data.
- Determining distribution method and appropriate grant sizes based on intervention, scale, and community need.
- Vetting solicitations and available services across Arizona.

The Equitable & Effective Schools Task Force asked that ADE keep the following in mind regarding ARP ESSER fund distribution:

- LEA and Community Based Organization (CBO) capacity and opportunity for partnership
- Awards large enough to make a demonstrable difference
- Application process that is not overly or unnecessarily burdensome to applicants
- Flexibility to address evolving needs around pandemic using data
- Braiding and leveraging other sources of funding for sustainability

ADE will collect data aligned to federal reporting requirements, survey the field and partners involved with the intervention, and engage in on-going stakeholder engagement to understand whether the intervention is working.

ADE will take into consideration state and local policies on COVID mitigation and re-opening schools that may impact the effectiveness of the intervention.

Lastly, ADE will lean on national research and clearing houses of information on evidence-based interventions and evaluate what is fitting or can be customized to Arizona's communities.

The following evidence-based programs have been selected and will be funded using the required 5 percent reservation of the state's total ARP ESSER allocation to Address the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:

$7.3 million - ASU Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College: Teacher Recruitment
Systematically adding capacity to Arizona's educator workforce by intentionally bringing trained and supported Community Educators into our PreK-12th grade learning environments statewide, with a particular focus on rural areas. Trained Community Educators will add much-needed capacity to accelerate student academic recovery and social-emotional needs.

$10 million – ASU Center for Science and the Imagination: STEM, Teacher training
Reimagining Arizona's S.T.E.M. ecosystem, developing curriculum and preparing teachers to deliver hands-on, minds-on S.T.E.M. activities to Arizona middle school students statewide.

$300,000 – Arizona Autism United
Expansion of Arizona Autism United's (AZA United) speech and language therapy services for children with developmental disabilities throughout Maricopa County. AZA United's speech and language services supplement and complement school-based speech services that children with developmental disabilities receive.

$2 million – Arizona Student Opportunity Collaborative (AZSOC)
A.Z.S.O.C. hires highly qualified educators already serving in rural schools to teach other rural students across the state. This innovative concept, now in its third semester, is filling instructional and curricular gaps in rural areas of Arizona. This expansion will allow more students in rural and remote areas access to highly qualified educators in other parts of the state in virtual settings.

$1.6 million – Avondale Elementary School District
Implementation of i-Ready Learning instructional resources district-wide. The strategies provided by i-Ready will give educators the tools they need to support student academic success in math and reading.

$1.1 million – Arizona Science Teachers Association (ASTA) Deeper Dive Program
ASTA's Deeper Dive program provides all teachers in Arizona access to standards-aligned units of science instruction and supports teachers as they implement these units in the classroom.

$562,000 – Arizona Science Teachers Association (ASTA) Teaching Science Symposium
ASTA's Teaching Science Symposium will be a virtual educational professional learning program connecting scientists/engineers/researchers with PreK-12 teachers.

$2 million – Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation's Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR)
The Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation's BARR model is a whole-school model for grades K-12. BARR allows K12 staff to better understand and build on students' strengths, proactively address the non-academic reasons a student may be falling behind in school, and identify which resources they need to thrive.

$ 1.3 million – Cartwright Elementary School District
Cartwright SD will support students using a three-pronged program, including structured play during recess to allow them to learn and apply their social skills to improve behavioral outcomes, providing home libraries to extend students' access to high-quality reading materials and resources to support math learning.

$600,000 – Child's Play, Inc EYEPlay Program
This drama-based literacy intervention will facilitate developing and deepening teachers' skills. This will enrich literacy and language development and social-emotional learning for up to 600 current preschool students in preparation for their transition to kindergarten. The EYEPlay program will address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented subgroups, with a

particular emphasis on using drama and embodied cognition to support English learners and children with disabilities.

$ 4.5 million – Coconino County Education Services Agency
To combat the impact of health on student achievement, CCESA, will work with school leaders to implement the BRYS program. The four practices to address this are:

- Building foundational support and plan,
- Increase the competency and capacity of school leaders and educators to utilize evidence-based practices that support educator and student mental, behavioral, and physical health resilience.
- Increase academic achievement of students through evidence-based social-emotional learning, mental, behavioral, and physical support services, and academic interventions to address learning loss due to COVID-19; and
- Develop a network of school and community partners with an established commitment to provide high quality evidence-based mental health promotion, prevention, and interventions to educators, students, and their families.

$2 million – Jobs for Arizona Graduates (JAG)
These funds will allow JAG to expand and scale its existing service model to additional locations throughout Arizona. JAG's programs are embedded in the school day, connecting youth with positive adult role models, delivering a competency-based curriculum, and developing a peer community through their student-led career association.

$2 million – Junior Achievement of Arizona
Junior Achievement's Inspire program helps launch middle school students into their future. Serving low-income students statewide, Junior Achievement helps students connect what they learn in school to the ""business of life"" – career readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

$ 8.8 million – Maricopa County Superintendent's Office
Deploy a team of Learning Acceleration Specialists to provide teachers with support in their classroom that they need to respond flexibly to their diverse student populations. These specialists, housed at the school sites, will serve in a variety of roles, depending on the needs of the students, teachers, and leadership.

$500,000 – Mindfulness First
Mindfulness First's programming will provide supportive, age-appropriate education in mental health and mental health practices to help students regulate their reactions to stress and prepare them to thrive academically.

$800,000 – Playworks Ed Energized

Playworks' approach to recess will allow students to reconnect with their peers safely and in a supportive environment, redevelop appropriate socialization skills through gameplay, and maximize their independent conflict resolution skills. This investment will allow Playworks to expand its programming to more Title-I schools across Arizona.

$3.7 million – Santa Cruz County Education Agency
Expand the Kindergarten Readiness Centers and preschool opportunities. More services are provided to families of young children. The expanded and enhanced academic programs involve creating a positive identity in our students about who they are and what their future can be. The projects entail a discovery learning by design approach that is the core of the applied learning camps and clubs. An emphasis is given by expanding library resources in both existing sites and through a literacy bus. Finally, Social-Emotional support is provided to our most vulnerable children and youth using a tiered approach ranging from universal to intensive services.

$1.4 million – Special Olympics Arizona
Special Olympics' Unified Champion schools program offers proven programs and activities that equip young people with tools and training to create sports, classroom, and community experiences that improve attitudes and behaviors among all young people. The program also reduces bullying and exclusion, promotes healthy activities and interactions, challenges stereotypes and negative attitudes, eliminates hurtful language in schools and elsewhere, and engages young people as leaders of a new, positive social movement.

$2 million – Waterford Research Institute
Waterford Research Institute's Upstart program will leverage the science of reading and personalized learning through a two-gen approach that includes ongoing coaching for rural and Tribal parents and students and trauma-informed strategies for strengthening family relationships during students' transition to kindergarten.

$4.7 million - School Counselor & Social Worker Positions through the School Safety Grant Program
Provides funding for new school counselors and social worker positions by investing in the School Safety Grant Program waitlists.

$16.3 million - Discovery Education
All Arizona educators and students will receive access to Discovery Education's award-winning K-12 learning platform as a teaching and learning resource aligned to state standards to supplement local curriculum.

$8.5 million - Math Momentum
Math Momentum will promote active learning as lesson pathways cater to individual knowledge and skills, motivating and supporting both struggling and advanced learners. This investment will support a summer pilot program with eight districts using a digital learning model, then expand based on demand in the 21-22 school year and beyond. The program will be targeted to LEAs where there is not access to a qualified math teacher or Algebra courses in the middle school grade bands.

$3.2 million PAX Good Behavior Game Training
A two-year partnership to provide professional development training to Arizona teachers. The PAX Good Behavior Game (PAX GBG) is a powerful, evidence-based practice consisting of proven instructional and behavioral health strategies teachers can use with their students in the classroom. This partnership will continue and expand the implementation of PAX GBG after a previous partnership between PAX, AHCCCS, and the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family (GOYFF) trained 3,800 teachers and community leaders across Arizona in the last two years.

$150,000 - PREPaRE Training
Provides Arizona schools the opportunity to participate in PREPaRE training, designed to improve and strengthen their school safety and crisis management plans and emergency response. The PREPaRE training curriculum has been developed by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) as part of NASP's decade-long leadership in providing evidence-based resources and consultation related to school crisis prevention and response.

$500,000 - University of Arizona's Center for Recruitment & Retention of Math Educators for Professional Development
Ensure all math educators, including those in special education, have access to the various resources, supports, and professional development offered by the University of Arizona's Center for Recruitment and Retention (CRR).

$860,000 - Kyrene Elementary School District
AIM to Prevent Dyslexia is designed to train teachers to intervene with preschoolers who are at risk of developing dyslexia. Training, coaching, and materials will be provided for about 60 educators. Additional reading training will be provided to about 560 educators, and 40 trainers to help them learn to diagnose specific student reading needs and match them with instruction and interventions.

$38 million - Achievement Tutoring
In September, 2023, grantees were asked to show evidence of academic impact of their programs. For programs that were unable to show academic impact and/or were not using their allotted funds at a pace to expend their total

allotment by the end of the grant, allocations were reduced. Some grants that showed no academic impact were terminated. Recouped allotments will be applied to a statewide tutoring program for students in grades 1-8 who have not yet demonstrated proficiency in English Language Arts and/or mathematics. Tutoring will be provided by teachers of record and/or tutoring companies with in-person and virtual options to ensure tutoring is available statewide. An assessment will be given to tutored students each six weeks to gauge academic progress. Some of the grantees were allowed to shift their scope of work to provide tutoring instead of or in addition to the services they were previously offering.

$80,000 – Training for Foreign National Teachers
Arizona Department of Education and Arizona State University are working together to develop training for Foreign National Teachers. This training will include an introduction to the American Classroom, familiarization with Arizona State standards, and training on evidence-based practices that impact students outcomes. The training will be developed together and then facilitated by the ADE moving forward.

ii. How the evidence-based interventions will specifically address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on certain groups of students, including each of the student groups listed in question A.3.i.-viii. When possible, please indicate which data sources the SEA will use to determine the impact of lost instructional time; an

Several of the ADE's current interventions are targeted and designed to be culturally responsive to support the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on the student groups listed in question A.3.i.-viii. Most of the students in Arizona's public school system fall within such student groups and are also impacted by statewide or schoolwide interventions underway.

ADE will continue to use the available statewide data sources to address disproportionate impact of COVID-19 and target additional interventions to vulnerable student populations. ADE was able to develop this type of process for its Acceleration Academy grant program using GEER I funding. For that program, ADE used the following data to prioritize awards based on COVID impact:

- Free and Reduced Lunch applications
- Not Proficient AzMERIT ELA and Math scores (statewide assessment)
- Unemployment claims in corresponding zip codes
- COVID cases in corresponding zip codes
- No access to computer in corresponding zip codes
- No access to internet in corresponding zip codes

Moreover, in evaluating inventions for vulnerable groups of students, ADE will also consider strategies and challenges identified by stakeholders. For example, advocates working with foster care students cited transportation as a barrier to student access to afterschool programs where they benefit from structured time for homework and a safe environment to interact with adults and peers.

iii. The extent to which the SEA will use funds it reserves to identify and engage 1) students who have missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years; and 2) students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures.

ADE will continue to utilize data as fit to target resources to students who missed the most instruction over the course of the pandemic. The following data on instructional modes from the 2020-2021 school year available:

- ID numbers of students no longer enrolled in AZ public system
- LEAs with waivers for onsite services due to public health orders; meaning buildings were closed and 100% of students and staff were in distance learning.
- Mode of instruction offered at each LEA at, at least one point during 2020-2021 school year.
- (LEA-level) The percent of student body in distance learning on the 40th day of the school year and on the last day. *Documentation on how attendance was being taken should show whether the student was in distance learning or in-person for a given day. This is not, however, required to be reported publicly.
- (School-level) Number of days of in-person, teacher-led instruction was offered (by August 1, 2021 based on state legislation)

ADE has already undertaken several of initiatives to identify and engage students who have been missing or disengaged from schools, including:

- Providing LEAs a list of students who were enrolled in their school the year prior but are no longer enrolled in another public school across the system. This data will help LEAs adopt strategies for reaching out to students they know are missing from the system. It is possible, however, that those students may be enrolled in a private school, homeschooled, or moved across state lines.

- Launching the Ready for School campaign to encourage students and families to reenroll in their public schools. The campaign uses video and media ads to highlight the many benefits of in-person school. ADE has

also used ESSER funds to create a hotline to support parents with the enrollment process

- Establishing an internal team working on a comprehensive system of supports or a cohort of schools that received waivers from having to provide onsite services due to local public health orders. The buildings of these schools were closed throughout the pandemic, and students could not access computer labs or special education services even if instruction was led online. The working assumption is that students enrolled in these schools missed the most in-person instruction across the state. The ADE team is working to identify their unique needs and help link to resources across ADE's program teams.

ADE will consider the use of ARP ESSER funds to scale current efforts or adopt additional approaches to target interventions at students who missed the most school last year.

2. Evidence-Based Summer Learning and Enrichment Programs: Describe how the SEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(f)(2) of the ARP Act (totaling not less than 1 percent of the State's total allocation of ARP ESSER funds) for evidence-based summer learning and enrichment programs, including those that begin in Summer 2021, and ensure such programs respond to students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. The description must include:
    i. A description of the evidence-based programs that address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students (e.g., providing intensive or high-dosage tutoring, accelerating learning) the SEA has selected, and the extent to which the SEA will evaluate the impact of those programs;

See Section D.1 on ADE's process for ARP ESSER funds. This includes summer learning and enrichment programs.

ADE is a participant in a collaborative network of State Education Agency (SEA) staff convened by the National Summer Learning Association and Council of State School Officers. The intent is for SEAs to build knowledge and capacity on how to develop community system-wide strategies to support learning. This network will support ADE in identifying evidence-based programs and standards for practice, as well as developing guidance for LEAs on the effective use of local ESSER funds to advance summer enrichment.

Funding provided out of this required reservation will be for activities that take place during the summer. Arizona will track awarded funds to ensure that the funds are spent consistent with the requirements of this reservation.

The following evidence-based programs have been selected and will be funded using the required 1 percent reservation of the state's total ARP ESSER allocation for Evidence-Based Summer Learning and Enrichment Programs:

$695,000 – Arizona Student Opportunity Collaborative (AZSOC)
A.Z.S.O.C. hires highly qualified educators already serving in rural schools to teach other rural students across the state. This innovative concept, now in its third semester, is filling instructional and curricular gaps in rural areas of Arizona. This expansion will allow more students in rural and remote areas access to highly qualified educators in other parts of the state in virtual settings.

$960,000 – Arizona PBS: Early Learning, Learning Loss, Literacy
Implementing PBS KIDS Super WHY Camp, an early literacy, evidence-based pre-kindergarten summer school transition program for 4- and 5-year-old students with little or no preschool experience in targeted low-income communities.

$313,000 – Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh Charter School
Address the impact of the pandemic on families residing in Gila River Indian Reservation by doing the following: 1) Addressing book scarcity by providing high-quality books for all enrolled preschool and kindergarten students for to establish a home library as well as $1000 for each kindergarten classroom to purchase age-appropriate books, puppets, manipulatives, for their classroom. This resource will also accompany training for parents/families on early literacy strategies, 2) quality early childhood education; 3) low academic achievement and critical transition skills from preschool to kindergarten, 4) Social and Emotional Learning, and 5) increased family re-engagement.

$1.1 million – Arizona Business and Education Coalition (ABEC)
Expanding ABEC's Career Exploration & Development Project for middle school students in Title-I schools in Yuma, Maricopa, Pinal, Yavapai, Coconino, and Navajo counties. This program helps middle school students transition to high school through school-based, after-school, and summer enrichment career exploration programs.

$1.3 million – Boys and Girls Club of the Valley's Whole Child Approach (W.C.A.) Program
BGCAZ. will implement the W.C.A. program to help alleviate social and emotional stress among children and youth. Youth ages 5-17 in Maricopa and Pinal Counties will have the opportunity to participate in activities that promote recovery by introducing and teaching developmental skills that reinforce success in school, work, and life.

$800,000 – City of Tempe's Human Services Department
Through its Education, Family, and Community Support program, the City of Tempe will provide college and career readiness support services to

underrepresented middle school and high school students disproportionally impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Tempe Elementary, Kyrene Elementary, and Tempe Union High School districts as well as other youth who reside in Tempe and surrounding areas.

$1.7 million – Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District Academic Parent-Teacher Teams

Cottonwood-Oak Creek School District will implement Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (A.P.T.T.), a family engagement model grounded in the notion that schools can thrive when families and teachers work together as genuine partners to maximize student learning inside and outside of school.

$2.3 million – Higher Ground: A Resource Center's Restart S.M.A.R.T Program

These funds will expand Higher Ground's Restart S.M.A.R.T community schools' model. Higher Ground serves low-income youth and families in the Tucson area through summer and after-school programs that build life skills and provide critical multigenerational support.

$1.5 million – notMYkid

notMYkid will expand its mental and behavioral health services to over 50,000 school-aged youth, parents & caregivers, and school faculty across Arizona. notMYkid will particularly focus on serving Title-I schools, LGBTQ youth, and low-income students and families.

$10 million – Valley of the Sun United Way's Project C.A.L.L.

VSUW's Collaborating to Accelerate Literacy and Learning, or ""Project CALL,"" will coordinate at the state and local levels to help mitigate the significant impact the pandemic has had on early learning and literacy. The state and local literacy hubs are designed to leverage scalable solutions by building on what works, leveraging collaboration, aligning existing systems to avoid duplication, and collaborating with experienced local partners with expertise, trusted relationships, and a strong track record of success working with school and community partners in service of children and families for better literacy outcomes.

$3 million – Valley of the Sun YMCA

Valley of the Sun YMCA will support the mental, physical, and behavioral health needs of students and educators by providing memberships and expanding services offered through youth fitness programs, diabetes prevention, and sports programs.

Math Momentum ($600K)

Math Momentum will promote active learning as lesson pathways cater to individual knowledge and skills, motivating and supporting both struggling and advanced learners. This investment will support a summer pilot program with eight districts using a digital learning model, then expand based on demand in the 21-22 school year and beyond. The program will be targeted to LEAs where there is not access to a qualified math teacher or Algebra courses in the middle school grade bands.

$500,000 - Camp Catanese
Camp Catanese will offer students a 1-week intensive learning opportunity on the ASU West campus as well as year-round programming to promote advanced math preparation, high school graduation, college acceptance, and enrollment and persistence among first-generation college students. This investment will support expansion to 400 7th – 12th graders including increasing program days, mentorship, tutoring, and support services.

ii. How the evidence-based programs will specifically address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on certain groups of students, including each of the student groups listed in question A.3. i.--viii. When possible, please indicate which data sources the SEA will use to identify students most in need of summer learning and enrichment programs; and

See Section D.1 on ADE's process for ARP ESSER funds. This includes summer learning and enrichment programs.

iii. The extent to which the SEA will use funds it reserves to identify and engage 1) students who have missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years; and 2) students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures.

See Section D.1 on ADE's process for ARP ESSER funds. This includes summer learning and enrichment programs.

3. Evidence-Based Comprehensive Afterschool Programs: Describe how the SEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(f)(3) of the ARP Act (totaling not less than 1 percent of the State's total allocation of ARP ESSER funds) for evidence-based comprehensive afterschool programs (including, for example, before-school programming), and ensure such programs respond to students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. The description must include:

i. A description of the evidence-based programs (e.g., including partnerships with community-based organizations) the SEA has selected, and the extent to which the SEA will evaluate the impact of those programs;

See Section D.1 on ADE's process for ARP ESSER funds. This includes comprehensive afterschool programs.

Funding provided out of this required reservation will be for activities that take place during afterschool. Arizona will track awarded funds to ensure that the funds are spent consistent with the requirements of this reservation.

The following evidence-based programs have been selected and will be funded using the required 1 percent reservation of the state's total ARP ESSER allocation for Evidence-Based Comprehensive Afterschool Programs:

$789,000 – Arizona Student Opportunity Collaborative (AZSOC)
A.Z.S.O.C. hires highly qualified educators already serving in rural schools to teach other rural students across the state. This innovative concept, now in its third semester, is filling instructional and curricular gaps in rural areas of Arizona. This expansion will allow more students in rural and remote areas access to highly qualified educators in other parts of the state in virtual settings.

$1.8 million - Access ASU: Learning Loss, High School Graduation, Postsecondary Attainment
Providing academic support services for first-generation and low-income students statewide in critical transition periods of middle school and senior year to post-secondary. Access A.S.U. will also provide student and family engagement services for elementary, middle, and high school students statewide and targeted high school foster youth support.

$1.2 million – University of Arizona's Native Student Outreach, Access, and Resiliency (SOAR) Program
Native SOAR is a comprehensive multigenerational mentoring program that centers on the needs of Native students statewide through the P-20 education system.

$1.1 million – ASU Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College: Play On! Program
Implementation of the Play On! Program to promote children's mental and physical health through active and inclusive play. The Play On! Program will offer after-school enrichment programs at fourteen elementary schools in Mesa Public Schools.

$558,000 – Arizona Educational Foundation's (AEF) teachSTEM Program
AEF's teachSTEM program, designed and facilitated by Arizona Teachers of the Year, helps address gaps in S.T.E.M. access while inspiring our next

generation of educators. Through teachSTEM, students are engaged first as S.T.E.M. learners and taught vital skills to prepare them to be global citizens. Students are also introduced to various S.T.E.M. career options, including why teachers are critical to any thriving, successful nation.

$629,000 – SciTech Institute

The SciTech Institute will provide experiential learning to Title-I students statewide through field trips, STEM expos, and classroom visits. These learning experiences will help students make essential STEM connections to the real world and possible applications to future career paths.

$5.1 million – Center for the Future of Arizona Connected Career Pathways

Grant funds will be used to expand APTP evidence-based best practices across the state through a regional capacity building approach to accelerate academic success and support students in critical transition periods, with a priority focus on serving historically underrepresented students, specifically African American, Latino, and Native American students, as well as students from low-income families and rural communities. Through a regional approach, CFA convenes leaders from industry, education, and other stakeholders to clearly identify the unique regional workforce needs and existing assets to adapt the APTP framework to fill gaps and create stronger alignment between industry and education to maximize impact. APTP is not a one-time project. Instead, it supports regional capacity building and establishes systems and structures to sustain the pathways work to yield lasting student impact.

The proposed project is comprised of the following components:

1. expand and develop new solutions in career literacy and guidance
2. expand early college programs of study, and
3. address inequities in innovative work-based learning experiences.

$1 million – Center for the Future of Arizona School Participatory Budgeting (S.P.B.)

School Participatory Budgeting is a high-impact education initiative that empowers students, especially those in vulnerable populations, to decide how to allocate resources to improve their community. S.P.B. empowers thousands of Arizona students to build social awareness and responsibility, build positive relationships with staff and peers, connect classroom content to experiential learning, and inspire active and responsible civic engagement for the long term. The initiative engages elementary through high school students after school in learning democracy by influencing decisions that impact their lives and transform their school communities. This project will enable CFA to significantly expand SPB across Arizona to serve many more students and school communities impacted by the pandemic, and does not involve students determining how to use ARP ESSER funds.

$1.7 million – Chicanos Por La Causa
These funds will support students and families' academic, mental, and physical health resources at CPLC's community schools in Phoenix and Tucson.

$973,000 – Phoenix Conservatory of Music
Phoenix Conservatory of Music will increase access to high-quality extracurricular activities by offering after-school enrichment opportunities to low-income youth.

$219,000 – Native American Advancement Foundation (NAAF)
NAAF will operate and integrated after-school program in coordination with community centers. They will serve 4 communities within the Tohono O'odham (Native American) and majority youth and elder vulnerable populations, providing internet, academioc support, and student technology for students.

ii. How the evidence-based programs will specifically address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on certain groups of students, including each of the student groups listed in question A.3.i.-viii. When possible, please indicate which data sources the SEA will use to identify students most in need of comprehensive afterschool programming; and

See Section D.1 on ADE's process for ARP ESSER funds. This includes comprehensive afterschool programs.

iii. the extent to which the SEA will use funds it reserves to identify and engage 1) students who have missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years; and 2) students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures.

See Section D.1 above on ADE's process for ARP ESSER funds. This includes comprehensive afterschool programs.

4. Emergency Needs: If the SEA plans to reserve funds for emergency needs under section 2001(f)(4) of the ARP Act to address issues responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, describe the anticipated use of those funds, including the extent to which these funds will build SEA and LEA capacity to ensure students' and

staff's health and safety; to meet students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs; and to use ARP ESSER funds to implement evidence-based interventions.

ADE views the goal of ESSER recovery funds is to support communities recovering from COVID-19, position our state's educational system to support student success, and ensure Arizona has a 21st-century ready workforce. Our goal is to allocate federal recovery dollars from the SEA's reserve to support emergency needs statewide strategically and equitably in order to reach students and communities in each of Arizona's fifteen counties. Where possible, we have taken advantage of the opportunity to leverage these funds alongside existing investments. ADE will further leverage an ongoing stakeholder engagement process to ensure that future investments are effectively targeted to meet the ongoing unique needs of Arizona's schools, students, and communities statewide.

Each of ADE's current and future investments using ARP ESSER funds follows a rubric to ensure these funds:

- Support students and communities most impacted by COVID-19
- Expand schools' access to evidence-based programs and trainings
- Address multiple factors that impact students' academics, including:
    - Social-emotional wellbeing
    - Educator workforce shortages
    - Family internet connectivity

ADE is committed to measuring and evaluating the success and impact of these investments.

ADE has also leveraged ARP ESSER funds to provide additional LEA assistance for Title I-A LEAs, Non-Title I-A LEAs, and Career Technical Education Districts (CTEDs). $47,500,838.92 has been allocated to LEAs for this purpose.

The following programs and initiatives have been selected and will be funded using ARP ESSER funds reserved for emergency needs under 2001(f)(4) of the ARP Act to address issues responding to the COVID-19 pandemic:

$500,000 – Funding for Arizona's Office of Indian Education (includes funding from ESSER I and II)
The ADE Office of Indian Education works statewide to support educational opportunities for indigenous students attending Arizona's public schools. More capacity is needed in this office to support the unique recovery needs of indigenous families and their schools, especially given the outsized impact of COVID-19 on tribal communities.

$5 million -Northern Arizona University and the Arizona K12 Center: Arizona Teacher Residency Program (includes funding from ESSER I and II)
The Arizona Teacher Residency is a first-of-its-kind graduate program in Arizona modeled after medical residencies, to help recruit, prepare, support, and retain K-12 teachers. The two-year program provides aspiring teachers with in-classroom experience, cost-of-living stipends, a master's degree, and a job at a partnering school district.

$3 Million – Office of Digital Teaching and Learning (ODTL)
ODTL provides Local Education Agencies with access to resources, from within or outside of ADE, to address the digital divide that limits K-12 students in Arizona from access to digital learning efficacy. ADE established ODTL in July 2021, was created in response to a recommendation from the Education Technology Task Force, a group established by superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Horne to inform statewide tech needs and solutions for K-12 education.

E. Supporting LEAs in Planning for and Meeting Students' Needs

The Department recognizes that the safe return to in-person instruction must be accompanied by a focus on meeting students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs, and by addressing the opportunity gaps that existed before – and were exacerbated by – the pandemic. In this section, SEAs will describe how they will support their LEAs in developing high-quality plans for LEAs' use of ARP ESSER funds to achieve these objectives.

1. LEA Plans for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds: Describe what the SEA will require its LEAs to include in LEA plans consistent with the ARP ESSER requirements for the use of ARP ESSER funds, how the SEA will require such plans to be made available to the public, and the deadline by which the LEA must submit its ARP ESSER plan (which must be a reasonable timeline and should be within no later than 90 days after receiving its ARP ESSER allocation). The LEA plans must include, at a minimum:

i. The extent to which and how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, in line with the most recent CDC guidance, in order to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning;

ii. How the LEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (totaling not less than 20 percent of the LEA's total allocation of ARP ESSER funds) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs;

iii. How the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act; and

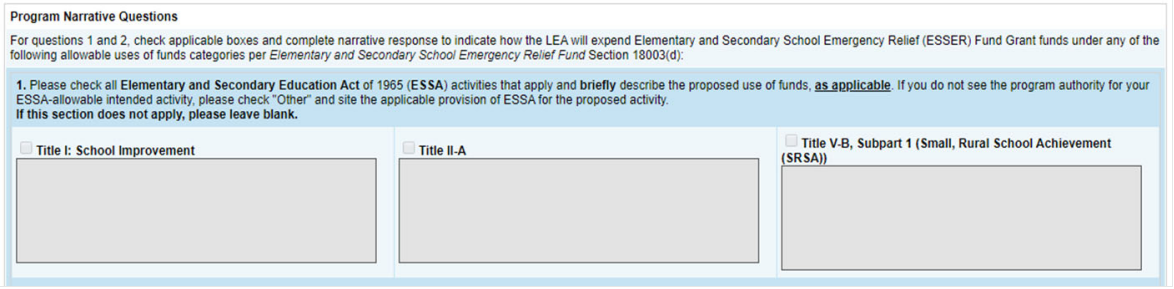
iv. How the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students.

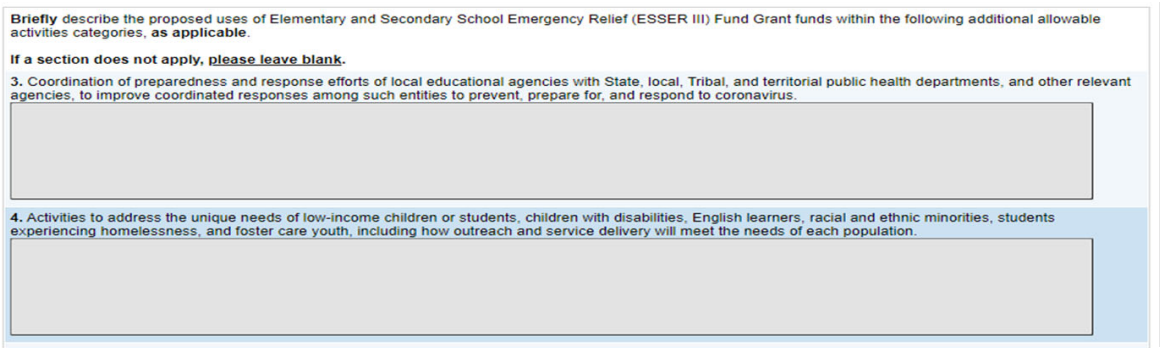
ADE released ARP ESSER LEA allocations and grant application on May 24, 2021. ADE's comprehensive guidance and support materials for the LEA ARP ESSER grant process are posted on the agency's ARP ESSER website. ADE set an original target date of August 23, 2021 for LEAs to submit their ARP ESSER application – which is 90 days from Arizona's release of ARP ESSER allocations and grant application. ADE has updated this target date to November 1, 2021 to allow LEAs to complete their stakeholder engagement and update their strategic planning and budgeting processes – particularly given the context of the COVID-19 Delta Variant, and the need to adjust local planning based on the current and projected potential impact on school and LEA operations for the SY 2021-2022 school year.

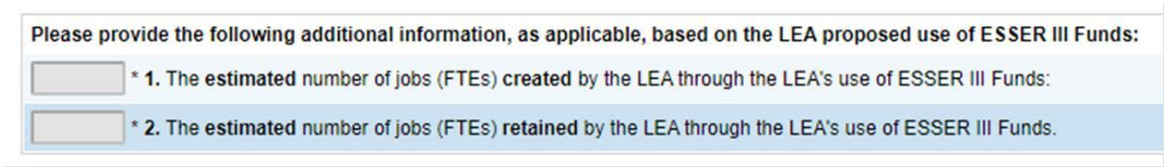
The ARP ESSER LEA plan requirements as outlined in ED's Interim Final Rule have been embedded within the LEA ARP ESSER online grant application as both required assurances for compliance and in the collection of the required content for the plan.

The ARP ESSER grant application includes a Program Narrative Questions page within the application. This page is designed to supplement the more detailed budget narrative section of the LEA application and provide accountability to ensure that all budgeted activities included by the LEA in their application align to an allowability category for ARP ESSER per ARP Sec. 2001(e)(2). The agency's ESSER I and II application contain similar pages to support this purpose with respect to the requirements of the CARES and CRRSA Acts.

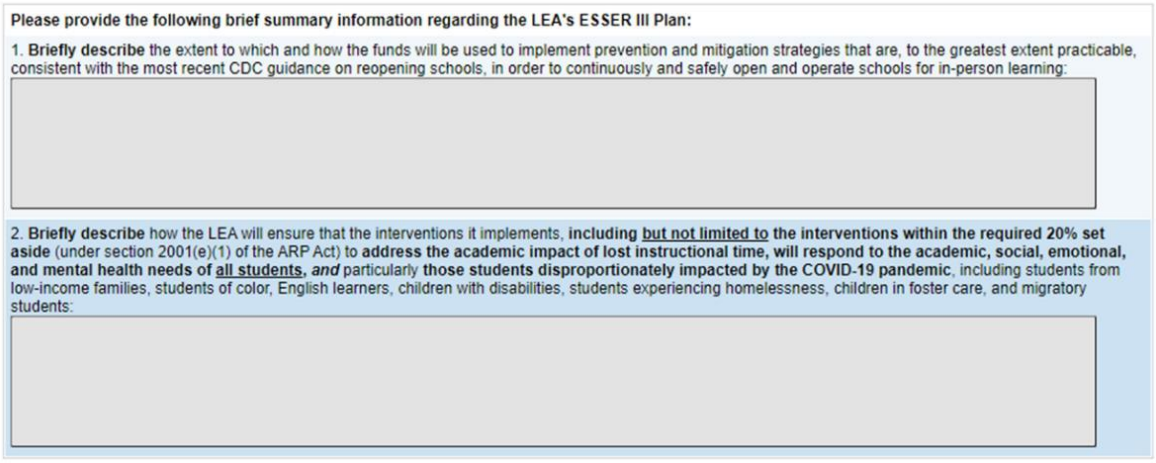
The following are selected screen shots of this page from the ARP ESSER application:



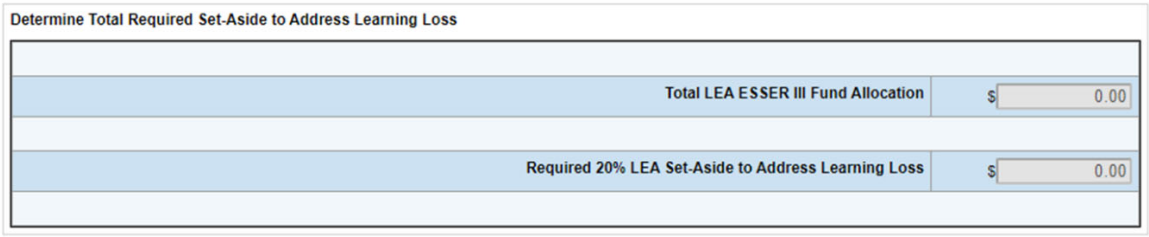




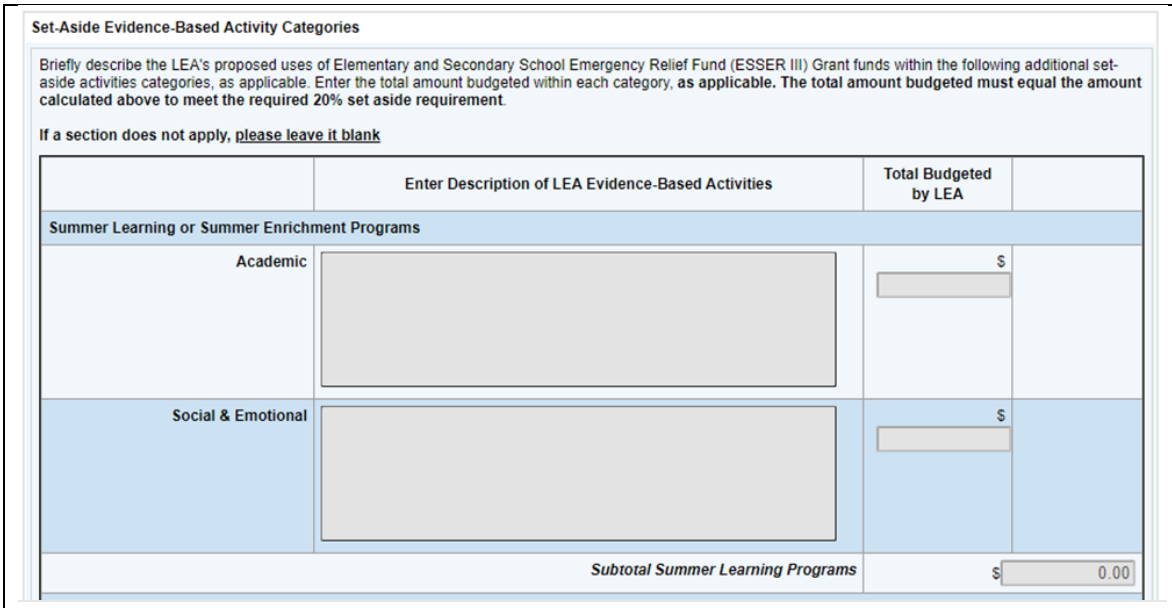
ADE has added required response sections on the Program Narrative Questions page for LEAs to address subsections (I – the extent to which an LEA is leveraging ARP ESSER funds to implement CDC mitigation strategies) and (iv – how the LEA will ensure the activities implemented will address the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of all students) above:



Additionally, ADE created a new 'Required LEA Set-Aside' page within the application. This page is designed to supplement the more detailed budget narrative section of the LEA application and provide accountability to ensure LEAs meet the required set aside requirements. This page prepopulates and automatically calculates the required minimum 20% of an LEA's total ARP ESSER award that must be reserved to address learning loss:



LEAs are required to complete the set aside page based on their planned evidence-based activities, and associated total budget for those activities, to support academic, social and emotional needs within each major listed category of Summer Learning or Summer Enrichment Programs, Extended Day Programs, Comprehensive Afterschool Programs, Extended School Year Programs and Other:



Set-Aside Evidence-Based Activity Categories

Briefly describe the LEA's proposed uses of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) Grant funds within the following additional set-aside activities categories, as applicable. Enter the total amount budgeted within each category, **as applicable. The total amount budgeted must equal the amount calculated above to meet the required 20% set aside requirement**.

If a section does not apply, please leave it blank

	Enter Description of LEA Evidence-Based Activities	Total Budgeted by LEA	
Summer Learning or Summer Enrichment Programs			
Academic		$	
Social & Emotional		$	
		Subtotal Summer Learning Programs	$ 0.00

Subtotals are captured for each major category and are then totaled. The page includes validations to ensure no less than 20% of the LEA's total ARP ESSER award has been represented on this page. The validation results in an error that will prevent an LEA from submitting their application until it is corrected.

ADE is leveraging existing staff from our School Support and Improvement unit to support the review of ARP ESSER LEA grant applications. In part, this will help to ensure the requirements per ARP Sec. 2001(e)(1) that all required set aside funded activities to address learning loss and meet student academic, social, emotional and mental health needs are also evidence-based – particularly in their application in support of our most vulnerable student populations – are met.

ADE has included the following required assurance to ensure LEAs comply with the ARP ESSER LEA plan development stakeholder engagement requirements per ED's Interim Final Rule:



*** Complies with LEA ESSER III Plan Requirements (ED Interim Final Rule (IFR))**
In developing its ARP ESSER plan, an LEA must:

• Engage in meaningful consultation:

o With stakeholders, including: Students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions; and

o To the extent present in or served by the LEA: Tribes; civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students; and

• Provide the public the opportunity to provide input and take such input into account

• An LEA's ARP ESSER plan must be:

o In an understandable and uniform format;

o To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent;

o Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent; and

o Be made publicly available on the LEA's website

ADE will include a review of local documentation of the stakeholder engagement process used to develop an LEA's ARP ESSER plan, and the LEA's posted plan to ensure compliance with these requirements as part of LEA programmatic monitoring activities.

ADE has further provided the expectation that the local ARP ESSER LEA plan is a living document, which can be revised and updated throughout the period of availability of the grant program, to include the expectation of ongoing stakeholder engagement to support this process.

2. LEA Consultation: Describe how the SEA will, in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, ensure that, consistent with the ARP ESSER requirements], its LEAs engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders, including, but not limited to:
    i. students;
    ii. families;
    iii. school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and
    iv. teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions.

    The LEA must also engage in meaningful consultation with each of the following to the extent present in or served by the LEA:
    i. Tribes;

ii. civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and

iii. stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

The description must also include how the SEA will ensure that LEAs provide the public the opportunity to provide input in the development of the LEA's plan for the use of ARP ESSER funds and take such input into account.

ADE has included the following required assurance to ensure LEAs comply with the ARP ESSER LEA plan development stakeholder engagement requirements per ED's Interim Final Rule:



ADE will include a review of local documentation of the stakeholder engagement process used to develop an LEA's ARP ESSER plan, and the LEA's posted plan to ensure compliance with these requirements as part of LEA programmatic monitoring activities.

ADE partnered with Achieve60AZ, College Success Arizona, Expect More Arizona and Arizona School Administrators to create and share an '***ARP ESSER and Community Input Partner Toolkit***' posted on ADE's ARP ESSER website to assist LEAs with their local stakeholder engagement efforts. This toolkit contains resources and strategies for effectively engaging stakeholders, along with a list of specific community stakeholder organizations representing the needs of vulnerable student populations, with links to each organization and their contact information. Practical information is shared regarding how to conduct community forums, both virtually and in-person and how to craft effective surveys to gather actionable data and information to inform local planning. Real examples from different LEAs across the state are also provided - such as sample surveys, flyers, emails and social media posts. The Arizona School Administrators (ASA) and Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) are supporting our collective efforts to raise awareness for this toolkit to support local engagement efforts.

ADE has further provided the expectation that the local ARP ESSER LEA plan is a living document, which can be revised and updated throughout the period

of availability of the grant program, to include the expectation of ongoing stakeholder engagement to support this process.

3. Describe how the SEA will support and monitor its LEAs in using ARP ESSER funds. The description must include:
    i. How the SEA will support and monitor its LEAs' implementation of evidence-based interventions that respond to students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs, such as through summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs – including the extent to which the SEA will collect evidence of the effectiveness of interventions employed;

ADE's SEA capacity to collect and report data will need to be enhanced to provide the capacity to collect data regarding the participation in programs funded by ARP ESSER resources, such as disaggregated student-level data to address LEA implementation of evidence-based strategies, as well as evidence of the effectiveness of their implemented strategies.

As referenced in Section E, ADE captures detailed information regarding how LEAs will meet the required 20% set-aside to address learning loss, as well as the ARP ESSER LEA Plan requirement to indicate '*how the LEA will ensure the activities implemented will address the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of all students*' as part of the LEA ARP ESSER grant application.

ADE is the in process of reviewing the proposed data collection and reporting requirements for ESSER I, II and ARP ESSER released by ED on July 2, 2021. The proposed business rules are extensive and will require the creation of new collection and reporting capacities at the SEA to capture new fiscal and programmatic data elements from LEA grantees.

Additionally, ADE staff capacity is being expanded to support providing technical assistance and programmatic monitoring for LEA grantees. These positions will also support LEAs through developing and providing guidance and trainings for LEAs for the ESSER funds programs, particularly with respect to local strategic, integrated planning and budgeting and sustainability planning; and developing and maintaining collaborative relationships with local, regional, and state community partners. These positions will further work to identify and analyze data needed to adhere to all ESSER Funds data reporting requirements to meet applicable reporting deadlines.

ii. How the SEA will support and monitor its LEAs in specifically addressing the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on certain groups of students, including each of the student groups listed in question A.3.i.-viii; and

Please see response to Section 3(i) above. Additionally, the ADE Equitable and Effective Schools Taskforce (described in Section C and D) will be used to provide ongoing feedback to the SEA regarding Arizona's implementation of ESSER fund programs to support our state's most vulnerable student populations. This feedback will serve to inform both LEA grantee technical assistance and support provided by ADE, as well as supporting future targeting of ESSER SEA set-aside funds to ensure they are effectively and sustainably meeting the needs Arizona's students and education community.

iii. How the SEA will support and monitor its LEAs in using ARP ESSER funds to identify, reengage, and support students most likely to have experienced the impact of lost instructional time on student learning, such as:
   a. Students who have missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years;
   b. Students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures; and
   c. Students most at-risk of dropping out of school.

Please see response to Section 3(i) above.

In addition to the data and information shared by LEAs as part of the ARP ESSER LEA grant application, and technical assistance and professional learning supports provided by ADE staff, the ADE Equitable and Effective Schools Taskforce (described in Section C and D) will be used to provide ongoing feedback to the SEA regarding Arizona's implementation of ESSER fund programs – to include supporting students whose student learning may be most impacted due to the loss and/or disruption of instructional learning time, and those student who may be most at-risk (or may now be at an elevated risk based on the challenges of the prior year) of dropping out of school. This feedback will serve to inform both LEA grantee technical assistance and support provided by ADE, as well as supporting future targeting of ESSER SEA set-aside funds to ensure they are effectively and sustainably meeting the needs Arizona's students and education community.

ADE has additionally provided resources and supports for schools to assist the them to safely reopen for in-person instruction, to include sharing ED's 3 volumes of the COVID-19 Handbook. Further, LEAs are required to revise and updated, at a minimum every 6 months through September 30, 2023, their LEA

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, per the requirements of the ARP Act. These plans will provide additional accountability regarding local LEA plans for supporting the students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs as LEAs move forward with their local recovery efforts.

4. Describe the extent to which the SEA will support its LEAs in implementing additional strategies for taking educational equity into account in expending ARP ESSER funds, including but not limited to:
    i. Allocating funding both to schools and for districtwide activities based on student need, and
    ii. Implementing an equitable and inclusive return to in-person instruction. An inclusive return to in-person instruction includes, but is not limited to, establishing policies and practices that avoid the over-use of exclusionary discipline measures (including in- and out-of-school suspensions) and creating a positive and supportive learning environment for all students.

ADE staff capacity is being expanded to support providing technical assistance and programmatic monitoring for LEA grantees. These positions will also support LEAs through developing and providing guidance and trainings for LEAs for the ESSER funds programs, particularly with respect to local strategic, integrated planning and budgeting and sustainability planning.

Additionally, ADE will continue to closely collaborate with statewide advocacy and professional organizations, such as the Arizona School Administrators (ASA), Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA), Arizona Association of School Business Officials (AASBO) and the Arizona Charter Schools Association (ACSA), as well as partnerships with County School Superintendents to provide timely, focused communications, technical assistance and professional learning to support local LEA implementation efforts.

ADE has championed the use of local decision making for leveraging ESSER funds to accelerate and enrich learning and increase learning opportunities and creating positive and supportive learning environments – particularly for our most vulnerable populations. ADE is committed to working collaboratively to support schools to use local, state and federal entitlement and recovery funds effectively and strategically to meet immediate needs and to make thoughtful, sustainable investments in support of ongoing local recovery efforts

ADE recognizes that the ESSER funds represent a generational opportunity to make strategic, sustainable investments to help address systemic inequities and unleash innovation and creativity to transform teaching and learning to realize

our agency's shared vision of ***Equity for All Students to Achieve their Full Potential***.

F. Supporting the Educator Workforce

The Department recognizes the toll that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken on the Nation's educators as well as students. In this section, SEAs will describe strategies for supporting and stabilizing the educator workforce and for making staffing decisions that will support students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

1. Supporting and Stabilizing the Educator Workforce:
    i. Describe the extent to which the State is facing shortages of educators, education administration personnel, and other school personnel involved in safely reopening schools, and the extent to which they vary by region/type of school district and/or groups of educators (e.g., special educators and related services personnel and paraprofessionals; bilingual or English as a second language

educators; science, technology, engineering, and math ("STEM") educators; career and technical education ("CTE") educators; early childhood educators). Cite specific data on shortages and needs where available.

Complete the table below, changing or adding additional rows as needed, or provide a narrative description.

Table F1.

Area	Data on shortages and needs	Narrative description
Special educators and related service personnel and paraprofessionals	Appropriately certified data - Percentage of positions filled with not appropriately certified staff: (Area - FY19/FY21) Mild-Moderate - 15%/13% Early Childhood Special Education - 15%/14% Learning Disability - 15%/15% Severe-Profound - 17%/28% Emotional Disability - 26%/14%	According to the 2020-21 shortage report data that Arizona submitted to the USED for the annual Teacher Shortage report, 4 of the 13 shortage areas are in special education positions. Paraprofessionals are not licensed/certified by the state. Data regarding paraprofessionals are available at the local level. Anecdotally, most LEAs report challenges in finding qualified paraprofessionals to fill all available positions.
Bilingual educators	Percentage of Bilingual positions not filled with appropriately certified staff: FY19 - 24% FY21 - 35%	According to FY19 appropriately certified data of the 71 positions reported 24% were filled by not appropriately certified staff and although positions declined in FY2021, 35% of the 66 positions were filled with not appropriately certified staff. Legislative changes have provided additional flexibilities in the instruction of English learners and bilingual education. It is anticipated these changes will increase the number of bilingual positions needed. It is unknown what the true demand for bilingual positions are due to gaps in current data collection.
English as a second language educators	Percentage of Structured English Immersion positions not filled with appropriately certified staff: FY19 - 15% FY21 - 16%	According to appropriately certified data, in FY19 15% of positions were filled with not appropriately certified staff and increased to 16% in FY21.

Area	Data on shortages and needs	Narrative description
STEM educators	Percentage of STEM positions not filled with appropriately certified staff: (Area - FY19/FY21) General Science - 17%/33% Chemistry - 12%/15% Earth Science - 35%/40% Physics - 15%/23% Middle Grades Math - 22.5%/23%	According to appropriately certified data, Science areas continue to be a shortage area as well as middle grades mathematics.
CTE educators	In 2021 there were 197 improperly certified teachers out of 2050 teachers teaching CTE programs. The ADE CTE Unit further estimates that there is a vacancy rate of approximately 10% for CTE teaching positions statewide.	The ADE CTE unit has received anecdotal feedback that a school will close a program if a teacher is not found. Data on CTE positions filled by substitute teachers when a certified CTE teacher could not be found are not currently available.
Early childhood educators	Percentage of Early Childhood Special Education positions not filled with appropriately certified staff: FY19 - 10% FY21 - 15%	According to appropriately certified data, Early Childhood Special Education continues to be a shortage area.
School counselors	All but 4 of the 198 awarded school counselor positions under the state funded School Safety Program have been filled for FY21/22 with candidates meeting the position qualifications (98% filled).	Requests for another 81 school counselor positions received by the ADE were unable to be filled because of inadequate state funding of the program. Because of the known increase in need for these positions created by the pandemic, ADE utilized ESSER II funds to award these positions to schools. It is not yet known whether the positions can be filled with qualified individuals.
Social workers	All but 3 of the 140 awarded school social worker positions under the state funded School Safety Program have been filled for FY21/22 with candidates meeting the position qualifications (98% filled).	Requests for another 100 school social worker positions received by the ADE were unable to be filled because of inadequate state funding of the program. Because of the known increase in need for these positions created by the pandemic, ADE utilized ESSER II funds to award these positions to schools. It is not yet known whether the positions can be filled with qualified individuals.

Area	Data on shortages and needs	Narrative description
Nurses	Data on unmet school nurse needs and vacancies is not collected by the ADE.	Anecdotally, it is known that several districts are unable to fill advertised positions due to non-competitive salaries that are offered. Similar to counselors and social workers, the issue of inadequate nurses seems to be more a funding issue and that positions are not created because of inadequate funds.
School psychologists	Number of school psychologist vacancies: FY19: 53 (4%) FY20: 47 (4%) Results from the ADD Exceptional Student Services (ESS) Unit Teacher Attrition Survey	Vacancies do not reflect all positions needed as the AZ school psychologist to student ratio (1:1,320) is much higher than the nationally recommended ratio (1:500-700) per data reported by the Arizona Association of School Psychologists.

ii. Describe how the SEA will assist its LEAs in identifying the most urgent areas of shortages or potential shortages, with particular plans for individual LEAs facing the most significant needs (e.g., by avoiding layoffs, providing high-quality professional learning opportunities, and addressing the impact of stress or trauma on educators). Include a description of how other Federal COVID-19 funding (e.g., ESSER and GEER funds under the CARES Act and CRRSA Act) have already been used to avoid layoffs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through our data collection, LEAs identify areas of need and ADE supports them through communication with Education Preparation Programs (EPP), providing a statewide job fair both in person and virtual, as well as a statewide job board for educators and education positions – the Arizona Education Employment Board.

ADE has created an Educator Recruitment and Retention team focusing on supporting the LEAs in recruitment and retention strategies as well as leveraging stakeholder partnerships. This team has also developed and implemented Principal and Supervisor of Principal professional learning academies to build leadership capacity in LEAs to ensure support of students and educators.

ADE actively partners with the Arizona K12 Center to support LEAs statewide through professional learning and on recruitment and retention strategies. We collectively revised our state's induction and mentoring standards and provide LEAs professional learning and support to increase

capacity for induction and mentoring as a vehicle to increase teacher efficacy and retention.

iii. Describe the actions the SEA will take to fill anticipated gaps in certified teachers for the start of the 2021-2022 school year and to what extent the SEA will further support its LEAs in expanding the educator pipeline and educator diversity while addressing the immediate needs of students disproportionately impacted by the pandemic (e.g., recruiting teaching candidates to provide high-dosage tutoring or implementing residencies for teacher candidates).

ADE actively assists LEAs in creating Classroom-based educator preparation programs to expand the local educator pipeline and address educator diversity. Additionally, ADE is supporting all educator preparation programs (EPPs) in providing data and strategies for the recruitment of future educators as well as ensuring efficacy in program completers. New legislation potentially allows community colleges to expand their role by offering bachelor's degrees. ADE will work with the community college to assist in standing up expanded educator preparation programs that more reflect the community.
ADE also facilitates a state-wide job board and job fair to assist LEAs in reaching a diverse pool of candidates for all teaching and support positions. As the accountability team analyzes gaps for students, the ADE will identify LEAs for targeted support and assistance in implementing impactful strategies to address need as well as partner with EPPs in utilizing strategies for the benefit of LEAs and student needs.

2. Staffing to Support Student Needs: Describe the extent to which the SEA has developed or will develop strategies and will support its LEAs in increasing student access to key support staff within school buildings, including school counselors, special education personnel, nurses, social workers, and psychologists (e.g. hiring additional personnel or freeing up these staff to focus on providing services to students).

The ADE Certification unit is supporting the work of the School Safety unit and their implementation of the school safety grant. ADE further a supported

rule change to create additional certification pathways for school counselors and helped to create a new School Social Worker certificate.

The ADE School Safety and Social Wellness unit is collaborating with the state school counselor and school social worker organizations to advertise the positions awarded to schools through the School Safety Program. This collaboration has extended to public and private universities to develop a stronger pipeline of social workers selecting schools as their workplace of choice. Cross-program collaboration within the ADE is occurring to strengthen professional development and support provided to these positions to improve job performance and increase retention.

The ADE School Safety and Social Wellness unit is also collaborating with the Arizona Nurse Association to investigate options for increasing the pipeline of nurses to schools in anticipation of the funding received by the state health department for school nurses.

G. Monitoring and Measuring Progress

The Department recognizes that transparency on how ARP ESSER funds are used and their impact on the Nation's education system is a fundamental responsibility of Federal, State, and local government. In this section, SEAs will describe how they are building capacity at the SEA and LEA levels to ensure high-quality data collection and reporting and to safeguard funds for their intended purposes.

1. Capacity for Data Collection and Reporting: It is important for an SEA to continuously monitor progress and make adjustments to its strategies, as well as to support its LEAs in making adjustments to LEA strategies, based on impact. Describe how the SEA will ensure its capacity and the capacity of its LEAs to

collect data on reporting requirements, including but not limited to the examples of reporting requirements described in the SEA's Grant Award Notification (listed in Appendix B). Describe the SEA's capacity and strategy to collect data from its LEAs (disaggregated by student group, where applicable), to the greatest extent practicable, including any steps the SEA will take to build its capacity in the future (which may include the use of ARP ESSER and other Federal COVID-19 pandemic funds at the SEA and LEA levels), on issues that may include the following:

i. Student learning, including the academic impact of lost instructional time during the COVID-19 pandemic;

ADE collects statewide assessment data, disaggregated by student group, for Arizona's statewide assessments. These data are then reviewed, analyzed and reported to meet state and federal accountability requirements for making accountability determinations.

ADE administers statewide assessments in Grades 3-8 and once in high school for ELA and Mathematics and in grade bands 3-5, 6-8, and once in high school for Science that are aligned to the State Academic Standards (Note: this also includes Alternate Assessment).

Beginning in Spring 2022, Arizona will administer the Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA) in grades 3 – 8, ACT in Grade 11, and AzSCI in grades 5, 8, and 11 to meet this federal requirement, and will administer the ACT Aspire at grade 9. Arizona will also offer the SAT as part of the Menu of Assessments at Grade 11, and administer the PSAT at grade 9.

The following is a list of current projects of the ADE Assessment Unit:

- Implementation of the new statewide high school assessment - Grade 11 (ACT)
- Development of new AZSCI Operational Assessment – Grades 5, 8, and 11
- Development of the new AZELLA aligned to the new ELP Standards
- Development of the new MSAA Science Assessment – Grades 5, 8, and 11
- Implementation of the MSAA (Alternate Assessment) for ELA and Mathematics – Grades 3 - 8 and 11
- Development of a new Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessment Grades K - 12
- National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) assessment both National and International Assessments
- Updates to Accessibility Manuals

ii. Opportunity to learn measures (e.g., chronic absenteeism; student engagement; use of exclusionary discipline; access to and participation in advanced coursework; access to technology,

including educator access to professional development on the effective use of technology; access to high-quality educators; access to school counselors, social workers, nurses, and school psychologists; and results from student, parent, and/or educator surveys);

ADE currently collects disaggregated student-level chronic absenteeism data.

ADE collects student access to and participation in advanced coursework, such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Cambridge International courses. ADE also collects advanced placement exam data for these programs.

ADE collects date regarding educator professional learning opportunities facilitated by the SEA.

ADE collects data regarding access to appropriately certified teachers, as well as access to school counselors, social workers, nurses, and school psychologists. ADE also regularly collects position data from LEAs through the ADE Teacher Input Application (TIA), which then links certified educators to the positions they fill. The ADE TIA system also collects aggregated teacher evaluation data. Additionally, the School Finance unit collects positional information for all certified and non-certified positions in district LEAs through the School District Employee Reporting (SDER) system.

ADE has leveraged the collection of data from stakeholders via online survey tools to support the implementation of statewide initiatives and program reporting requirements, as applicable.

iii. Fiscal data that is comparable across the State (e.g., per-pupil expenditures at the LEA and school levels);

Arizona school districts and charter schools are required to prepare an Annual Financial Report (AFR) for the preceding fiscal year and to annually submit this report to the ADE by October 15th. The annual AFR report summarizes financial data across a number of funds, programs, and uses and includes school-level financial reporting data.

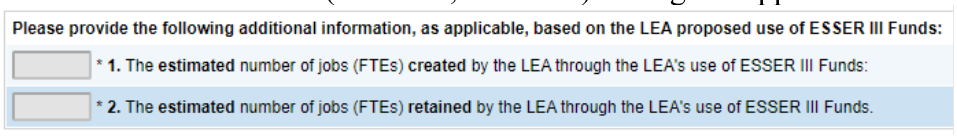
After Annual Financial Reports are submitted, the data are processed by the ADE and used to calculate federally required per-pupil expenditure data and other state-required data points that appear in Arizona school report cards at azreportcards.azed.gov. These data are also compiled to prepare the Superintendents Annual Financial Report (SAFR), which summarizes financial data for all school districts and charter schools in Arizona and is required by state statute to be annually published by January 15th. Updated financial data,

to include updated school per pupil expenditures, are typically added to school report cards in late January.

ADE will also compile, post, and annually report to ED SEA and LEA ARP ESSER Maintenance of Equity (MoEquity) data per ARP ESSER requirements.

iv. Jobs created and retained (by position type);

ADE collects data regarding the number of jobs created and/or retained by FTE within each ESSER fund (ESSER I, II and III) LEA grant application:



ADE also regularly collects position data from LEAs through the ADE Teacher Input Application (TIA), which then links certified educators to the positions they fill. The ADE TIA system also collects aggregated teacher evaluation data. Additionally, the School Finance unit collects positional information for all certified and non-certified positions in district LEAs through the School District Employee Reporting (SDER) system.

v. Participation in programs funded by ARP ESSER resources (e.g., summer and afterschool programs); and

ADE's SEA capacity to collect and report data will need to be enhanced to provide the capacity to collect data regarding the participation in programs funded by ARP ESSER resources, such as disaggregated student-level data for participation in summer and afterschool programs.

ADE is the in process of reviewing the proposed data collection and reporting requirements for ESSER I, II and III released by ED on July 2, 2021. The proposed business rules are extensive, and will require the creation of new collection and reporting capacities at the SEA to capture new fiscal and programmatic data elements from the SEA, LEA grantees and entities funded using SEA set-aside funds across each ESSER fund grant.

ADE has created new common data collection and program evaluation language for inclusion in all SEA set-aside funded project agreements and contracts that are aligned with ED's current proposed data reporting guidelines. This language includes references to required fiscal, programmatic and FTE position data reporting.

vi. Other reporting requirements reasonably required by the Secretary (please refer to Appendix B of this template; final requirements will be issued separately).

Starting in SY2021-2022, *School Operating Status and Instructional Mode* data will be collected at the student level via the Arizona Education Data Standards (AzEDS) process. AzEDS is the vehicle for ADE to collect all student-level data from LEAs for school finance and state and federal reporting.

Leveraging AzEDS will allow for ADE to collect and report disaggregated student-level data reporting per the ongoing reporting requirements of Appendix A, Table 2 of the ARP ESSER State Plan Template, to include Mode of Instruction, Enrollment and Attendance
for all students and disaggregated for each of the student groups described in A.3.i-viii for each mode of instruction (fully remote or online-only instruction; both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid model); and/or full-time in-person instruction).

ADE is the in process of reviewing the proposed data collection and reporting requirements for ESSER I, II and III released by ED on July 2, 2021. The proposed business rules are extensive and will require the creation of new collection and reporting capacities at the SEA to capture new fiscal and programmatic data elements from the SEA, LEA grantees and entities funded using SEA set-aside funds across each ESSER fund grant.

ADE has created new common data collection and program evaluation language for inclusion in all SEA set-aside funded project agreements and contracts that are aligned with ED's current proposed data reporting guidelines. This language includes references to required fiscal, programmatic and FTE position data reporting.

ADE will additionally provide ongoing technical assistance and support for LEAs and SEA funded entities to help ensure quality and timeliness of submission of all required data.

2. Monitoring and Internal Controls: Describe how the SEA will implement appropriate fiscal monitoring of and internal controls for the ARP ESSER funds (e.g., by updating the SEA's plan for monitoring funds and internal controls under the CARES and CRRSA Acts; addressing potential sources of waste, fraud, and abuse; conducting random audits; or other tools). In this response, please describe the SEA's current capacity to monitor ARP ESSER; steps, if needed, to increase capacity; and any foreseeable gaps in capacity, including how the SEA will

provide its LEAs with technical assistance in the anticipated areas of greatest need.

ADE will leverage existing agency processes to fiscally monitor LEAs receiving ESSER I, II and ARP ESSER funds. Current capacity is being expanded to meet the additional volume of monitoring that will be required due to the inclusion of these new grant programs.

Fiscal monitoring for LEAs receiving ESSER grant funds will begin in calendar year 2022, after Completion Reports are submitted for the initial budget period of ESSER I (March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2021). LEAs are required to provide documentation as part of the Completion Report that includes high-level fiscal overview from the project. Completion Reports also contain required data and documentation regarding expenditures that occurred during the initial budget period.

LEAs will be selected for fiscal monitoring in accordance with ADE's existing Risk Assessment process, based on the Risk Assessment Rating (High-Low). In addition to the Completion Report review and approval process, fiscal monitoring will further consist of reviewing local LEAs policies for internal controls, procurement, and other required elements per Education Department General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) and the Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG).

Material weaknesses that are identified through the fiscal monitoring process will result in appropriate technical assistance and follow up, to include corrective action plans, as applicable.

ADE is also in the process of increasing current agency capacity to fiscally monitor non-LEA entities receiving ESSER I, II and ARP ESSER SEA set-aside funds. To support this process, ADE has created new common data collection and program evaluation language for inclusion in all SEA set-aside funded project agreements and contracts that are aligned with ED's current proposed data reporting guidelines. This language includes references to required fiscal, programmatic and FTE position data reporting.

Appendix A: School Operating Status and Instructional Mode Data Template

Indicate the date or time period represented by the following data.

Data reported are as of Mid-May 2021 for SY 2020-2021

Table 1

In the most recent time period available, how many schools in your State offered each mode of instruction or learning model described below? Each row should account for all schools in your

State, so that, for each row, the sum of the numbers in the "offered to all students," "offered to some students," and "not offered" columns is equal to the number in the "all schools" column.

Add or change rows as needed

Number of schools	All schools	Offered to all students	Offered to some students	Not offered
Remote or online only	498	498	0	1647
School buildings open with both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid)	1592	1592	0	553
School buildings open with full-time in-person instruction	55	55	0	2090

To the extent data are available, please complete the above table for 1) all schools in the State, and 2) separately for each instructional level (e.g., pre-kindergarten/elementary schools, middle schools, high schools).

Elementary Schools (Schools serving primarily K-8)

Number of schools	All schools	Offered to all students	Offered to some students	Not offered
Remote or online only	315	315	0	1234
School buildings open with both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid)	1200	1200	0	349
School buildings open with full-time in-person instruction	34	34	0	1515

Secondary Schools (Schools serving primarily 9-12)

Number of schools	All schools	Offered to all students	Offered to some students	Not offered
Remote or online only	183	183	0	413
School buildings open with both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid)	392	392	0	204
School buildings open with full-time in-person instruction	21	21	0	575

Table 2

In the most recent time period available, what was the enrollment and mode of instruction for the schools in your State?

NOTE: In SY2020-2021, Arizona LEAs were required to report the percentage of instructional time that was remote or online only at the LEA-level. Tables assume that the percentage of instruction that was remote or online only was the same for all schools within the LEA, except or schools approved to provide Arizona Online Instruction, which is entirely

online. Unredacted data from the SY2020-2021 October 1st Enrollment Report was used to make school primary grade levels served determination. Starting in SY2021-2022, these data will be collected via AzEDS allowing for disaggregated student-level data reporting per the ongoing reporting requirements of Appendix A, Table 2 of the ARP ESSER State Plan Template.

Add or change rows as needed

Number of students	**Total enrollment**	**Remote or online only**	**Both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid)**	**Full-time in-person instruction**
Students from low-income families	#	#	#	#
White, not Hispanic	#	#	#	#
Black or African American, not Hispanic	#	#	#	#
Hispanic, of any race	#	#	#	#
Asian, not Hispanic	#	#	#	#
American Indian or Alaskan Native, not Hispanic	#	#	#	#
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, not Hispanic	#	#	#	#
Two or more races, not Hispanic	#	#	#	#
Race/Ethnicity information not available	#	#	#	#
English learners	#	#	#	#
Children with disabilities	#	#	#	#

Number of students	Total enrollment	Remote or online only	Both remote/online and in-person instruction (hybrid)	Full-time in-person instruction
Students experiencing homelessness	#	#	#	#
Children and youth in foster care	#	#	#	#
Migratory students	#	#	#	#

Appendix B: Reporting Language Included in the Grant Award Notification ("GAN")

As described in the Grant Award Notification ("GAN"), the SEA will comply with, and ensure that its LEAs comply with, all reporting requirements at such time and in such manner and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including on matters such as:

- How the State is developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies and plans in line with the CDC guidance related to mitigating COVID-19 in schools;

- Overall plans and policies related to State support for return to in-person instruction and maximizing in-person instruction time, including how funds will support a return to and maximize in-person instruction time, and advance equity and inclusivity in participation in in-person instruction;
- Data on each school's mode of instruction (fully in-person, hybrid, and fully remote) and conditions;
- SEA and LEA uses of funds to meet students' social, emotional, and academic needs, including through summer enrichment programming and other evidence-based interventions, and how they advance equity for underserved students;
- SEA and LEA uses of funds to sustain and support access to early childhood education programs;
- Impacts and outcomes (disaggregated by student subgroup) through use of ARP ESSER funding (e.g., quantitative and qualitative results of ARP ESSER funding, including on personnel, student learning, and budgeting at the school and district level);
- Student data (disaggregated by student subgroup) related to how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected instruction and learning;
- Requirements under the Federal Financial Accountability Transparency Act ("FFATA"); and
- Additional reporting requirements as may be necessary to ensure accountability and transparency of ARP ESSER funds.

Appendix C: Assurances

By signing this document, the SEA assures all of the following:

- The SEA will conduct all its operations so that no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under the ARP ESSER program or activity based on race, color, national origin, which includes a person's limited English proficiency or English learner status and a person's actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics; sex; age; or disability. These non-discrimination obligations arise under Federal civil rights laws, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. In addition, the SEA must comply with all regulations, guidelines, and standards issued by the Department under any of these statutes;
- The SEA will comply with all ARP Act and other ARP ESSER requirements and all requirements of its Grant Award Notification, including but not limited to:
    - Complying with the maintenance of effort provision in section 2004(a)(1) of the ARP Act, absent a waiver by the Secretary pursuant to section 2004(a)(2) of the ARP Act; and
    - Complying with the maintenance of equity provisions in section 2004(b) of the ARP Act, and ensuring its LEAs comply with the maintenance of equity provision in section 2004(c) of the ARP Act (please note that the Department will provide additional guidance on maintenance of equity shortly);
- The SEA will allocate ARP ESSER funds to LEAs in an expedited and timely manner and, to the extent practicable, not later than 60 days after the SEA receives ARP ESSER funds (i.e., 60 days from the date the SEA receives each portion of its ARP ESSER funds). An SEA that is not able to allocate such funds within 60 days because it is not practicable (e.g., because of pre-existing State board approval requirements) will provide an explanation to the Department within 30 days of receiving each portion of its ARP ESSER funds (submitted via email to your Program Officer at [State].OESE@ed.gov (e.g., Alabama.OESE@ed.gov)), including a description of specific actions the SEA is taking to provide ARP ESSER funds to LEAs in an expedited and timely manner and the SEA's expected timeline for doing so;
- The SEA will implement evidence-based interventions as required under section 2001(f) of the ARP Act and ensure its LEAs implement evidence-based interventions, as required by section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act;
- The SEA will address the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on underserved students (i.e., students from low-income families, students from racial or ethnic groups (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by race or ethnicity), gender (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by gender), English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students), as required under section 2001(f) of the ARP Act, and ensure its LEAs address the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on underserved students (i.e., students from low-income families, students from racial or ethnic groups, gender, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and

youth in foster care, and migratory students), as required by section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act; and

- The SEA will provide to the Department: (1) the URL(s) where the public can readily find data on school operating status and (2) the URL(s) for the SEA and/or LEA websites where the public can find the LEA plans for a) the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services required under section 2001(i) of the ARP Act, and b) use of ARP ESSER funds. SEAs should consider ensuring a standardized URL format in all cases (e.g., xxx.gov/COVIDplan).

Appendix D

OMB Control No. 1894-0005 (Exp. 06/30/2023)

NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS

The purpose of this enclosure is to inform you about a new provision in the Department of Educations General Education Provisions Act ("GEPA") that applies to applicants for new grant awards under Department programs. This provision is Section 427 of GEPA, enacted as part of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law (P.L.) 103-382).

To Whom Does This Provision Apply?

Section 427 of GEPA affects applicants for new grant awards under this program. **ALL APPLICANTS FOR NEW AWARDS MUST INCLUDE INFORMATION IN THEIR APPLICATIONS TO ADDRESS THIS NEW PROVISION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER THIS PROGRAM.**

(If this program is a State-formula grant program, a State needs to provide this description only for projects or activities that it carries out with funds reserved for State-level uses. In addition, local school districts or other eligible applicants that apply to the State for funding need to provide this description in their applications to the State for funding. The State would be responsible for ensuring that the school district or other local entity has submitted a sufficient section 427 statement as described below.)

What Does This Provision Require?

Section 427 requires each applicant for funds (other than an individual person) to include in its application a description of the steps the applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, its Federally-assisted program for students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries with special needs. This provision allows applicants discretion in developing the required description. The statute highlights six types of barriers that can impede equitable access or participation: gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age. Based on local circumstances, you should determine whether these or other barriers may prevent your students, teachers, etc. from such access to, or participation in, the Federally-funded project or activity. The description in your application of steps to be taken to overcome these barriers need not be lengthy; you may provide a clear and succinct description of how you plan to address those barriers that are applicable to your circumstances. In addition, the information may be provided in a single narrative, or, if appropriate, may be discussed in connection with related topics in the application.

Section 427 is not intended to duplicate the requirements of civil rights statutes, but rather to ensure that, in designing their projects, applicants for Federal funds address equity concerns that may affect the ability of certain potential beneficiaries to fully participate in the project and to achieve high standards. Consistent with program requirements and its approved application, an applicant may use the Federal funds awarded to it to eliminate barriers it identifies.

What are Examples of How an Applicant Might Satisfy the Requirement of This Provision?

The following examples may help illustrate how an applicant may comply with Section 427.

(1) An applicant that proposes to carry out an adult literacy project serving, among others, adults with limited English proficiency, might describe in its application how it intends to distribute a brochure about the proposed project to such potential participants in their native language.

(2) An applicant that proposes to develop instructional materials for classroom use might describe how it will make the materials available on audio tape or in braille for students who are blind.

(3) An applicant that proposes to carry out a model science program for secondary students and is concerned that girls may be less likely than boys to enroll in the course, might indicate how it intends to conduct "outreach" efforts to girls, to encourage their enrollment.

(4) An applicant that proposes a project to increase school safety might describe the special efforts it will take to address concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students, and efforts to reach out to and involve the families of LGBT students.

We recognize that many applicants may already be implementing effective steps to ensure equity of access and participation in their grant programs, and we appreciate your cooperation in responding to the requirements of this provision.

Click here to enter text.

Estimated Burden Statement for GEPA Requirements

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit (Public Law 103-382). Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20210-4537 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1894-0005.

Appendix D: Response to Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA)

Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) requires a description of the steps that will be taken to ensure equitable access to, and participation in, federally assisted programs for students, teachers and other program beneficiaries. To ensure equitable participation and access project resources, the following considerations will be made:

- When requested, the Arizona Department of Education will produce dissemination materials (e.g., direct mailings, e-mails, on-line announcements) in both English and Spanish. Other considerations will be made to ensure the document is readily accessible to traditionally underrepresented groups.
- The project staff will coordinate the process of cooperation and collaboration between and among the project participants to ensure equitable access and participation of recipients of the project funds.
- The project staff will conduct accessibility assessments of their programs' physical and instructional environments.
- The project staff will eliminate physical and learning barriers in the educational settings and provide reasonable accommodations to those being served.
- The project staff will carefully consider issues of cultural diversity and sensitivity by reviewing instructional elements of the program. Careful attention to topics covered in the program will be considered based on how participants might respond, react, or perceive information being presented.

The Arizona Department of Education shall maintain non-discriminatory learning environments to ensure that participants are not excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of or otherwise subjected to discrimination in any program or activity of the district on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability or national origin. The right of any student to attend and participate in school activities will be limited only when the welfare of others may be threatened. When students act irresponsibly, they will be held accountable so as to preserve an appropriate educational setting for others. These provisions are supported in the proposal as well as in the Department's policies and rules supporting diversity.