Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

- Includes FY21 education funding and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, a stimulus and pandemic relief package

Includes $81B split between three funds:

- GEER II (the Governors Emergency Education Relief fund) receives 5% of the funding, or $4.05B
- ESSER II (the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief fund) receives 67% of the funding, or $54.3B
- HEER II (the Higher Education Emergency Relief fund) receives 28% of the funding, or $22.7B
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act

- $54.3B for ESSER II for public K-12 schools
- $4.05B for the GEER II, which includes a $2.75B set-aside for services to private K-12 schools
- 10% maximum SEA reservation; ½ of 1% SEA max. for administrative costs
- For permissible expenses back to March 13, 2020
- Available for obligation through September 30, 2023
ESSER II - Fund Summary

- Largest, most flexible discretionary K-12 fund in history
- $14B more than ED’s total FY21 discretionary K-12 appropriation
- Least burdensome process to receive funds
- Should be added to state accounts within 30 days of enactment
- Substantial pressure to use funds quickly and effectively
- States should communicate early and often on how funds are being spent
ESSER II - District Access to Funds

- $54.3B based on FY21 Title I, Part A formula
- $928M – Kentucky’s allocation
- No Equitable Services requirements
- New Assurances and Spending Plan
- Same CARES Act reporting requirements
- Detailed accounting w/in 6 mos. how SEA is using funds to address learning loss
- ESSER II funds tracked separately from ESSER
- ESSER I funds should be expended before ESSER II funds
- New MUNIS Project Number
ESSER II - Fund Uses

Broad uses of funds, including (new uses):

- Any allowable activity under ESEA, IDEA, Adult Education, Perkins CTE;
- Coordination of COVID preparedness and response, numerous specific COVID response activities;
- Addressing learning loss, including through assessment, evidence-based activities, parent engagement, tracking attendance, and improving student engagement;
- School facilities repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs; improve indoor air quality;
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services.
ESSER II - Encouraged Uses

Districts are strongly encouraged to use ESSER II funds to address learning loss. Examples include:

● Assessments
● Extended instructional time/services
● Additional academic services, instructional materials or supports, or devices/connectivity
● Address learning barriers and train teachers and parents, provide access to school meals, or socio-emotional programs.
● Professional learning for parents and teachers
ESSER II – Additional Permissible Uses

- Nurses
- Mental Health Professionals
- Employee Emergency Leave Days
Governors Emergency Education Relief II (GEER) Fund

- $4.05B for the GEER II Fund
- $19.5M – Kentucky’s allocation
  - Uses of Funds = emergency supports, same as CARES GEER
  - LEAs and IHEs “most significantly impacted”
- $2.75B of the $4.05B for Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools
  - $40.8M – Kentucky’s allocation
Broadband

- $3.2B for low-income families to access broadband through FCC fund and a $1B tribal broadband fund.
- Individuals eligible for $50 monthly internet subsidy and providers can be reimbursed up to $100 for issuing a Wi-Fi connected device (one per household)
- Eligible if participate in free and reduced price lunch program
Pandemic EBT (P-EBT)

Permits the use of “simplified assumptions” in determining whether a school or covered childcare facility is closed or operating under reduced hours. These and other provisions were included to clarify coverage for children under 6 years of age in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) households under P-EBT program.
Child Nutrition Program Provisions
Participants of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National School Lunch Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program

- Partially (55%) reimburses school food authorities and covered daycare centers for costs incurred during sudden COVID-19 emergency school closures in Spring 2020.
- Additional details have not been distributed by the USDA regarding the amount of funds allocated for this purpose or how these funds will be distributed.
Federal FY21 Appropriations

- $227 million increase for Title I
- $173 million more for IDEA Part B State grants
- $11.3 million more for Supporting Effective Educators Grants (ESEA Title II, Part A)
- $135M increase for the Head Start program
- $85M more for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG).
- $10B childcare funding for providers and families.
Employee Leave

- Employers may but are no longer required to provide paid Emergency Family and Medical Leave or Emergency Paid Sick Leave past December 30, 2020.
- **702 KAR 1:190E** permits districts to provide employees unlimited COVID-19 Emergency Leave days.
- May use ESSER II funds
- CRSSA Act requires entities receiving funds “to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors”
Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

- Deadline extended for the expenditure of CRF funds until December 31, 2022
- SEEK Replacement and Last Mile Internet
- All districts have expended funds for SEEK replacement before original deadline of December 30, 2020.
- Last mile internet – additional guidance to be provided
Questions or Comments

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