

Education Update

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Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Act (ESSER III)

Through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Department of Education and Early Development received \$119,632,848 on 08/26/21. As a requirement:

*Districts must use at least 20% of the funds they receive to address learning loss...and ensure interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups...[including] **children with disabilities**.*

In DEED's final plan to the U.S. Dept. of Education, [State Plan for ARP ESSER Funds FINAL](#), it reported that stakeholder groups identified the following academic and support needs for all student eligible under IDEA (infants, toddlers, ages 3-21):

- Assessments of regression/social-emotional/mental status for students with a disability and supports for families.
- Develop a service plan to implement into the student's Individual Education Program (IEP).
- **Implement any compensatory educational needs in accordance with the student's IEP services and service hours as determined in an IEP meeting.**
- Identify services and supports available for the district and the individual locations of schools.

ARP ESSER Supplemental (IDEA)

The Federal Relief Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Supplemental granted Alaska a total of \$9,266,666. Ages 3-5 will receive \$666,666, and ages 5-21 will receive \$8,600,000.

Purposes of Funding

Funds may be used for all allowable purposes under Part B of IDEA and are subject to all requirements and provisions that apply to IDEA funds, including requirements and provisions under IDEA Allowable. For example, the funds may be used for the costs of teacher, related service providers and specialized equipment or devices.

Food for Thought

- How will the DEED ensure ESSER III funds are used specifically for students with disabilities and not only other subgroups?
- Are families of children with disabilities aware funds have been made available for compensatory services? How will districts bring awareness to this opportunity and make it easier for families to gain access to goods services?

On the Horizon

- Next meeting TBD
- SEAP report will be available in early October.