

# SUMMARY OF COVID RELIEF EDUCATION FUNDING

Since March 2020, the federal government has passed three relief packages in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that include unprecedented support for K–12 schools. **Combined, legislation provides more than \$193 billion in aid to state education agencies (SEAs) which must subaward 87.5–90% to school districts.** An additional \$9.7 billion has been directed to governors to spend at their discretion and support private schools. **The majority of relief funds will be disbursed based on the proportion of Title I funds a state or district received in the most recent fiscal year.** *Relief Funds and Title I Funds are otherwise unrelated.*

Table 1 outlines funds available through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I and II Funds and the more recent American Rescue Plan, as well as the timeline for districts to obligate those funds.

**Table 1. Funds Available to K-12 Schools through COVID-19 Relief Packages**

Name of the Legislation	Amount	Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund	Timeline
<b>Coronavirus Aid, Relief &amp; Economic Security (CARES) Act (ESSER I Fund)</b> Passed March 2020	\$13.2 Billion	\$3 Billion *Click here to see how governors are spending their CARES Act share	Sept. 30, 2022: Deadline for SEAs and districts to obligate funds.
<b>Coronavirus Response &amp; Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act (ESSER II)</b> Passed December 2020	\$54 Billion	\$4 billion *\$2.7 billion of this allocated to Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS)	Sept. 30, 2023: Deadline for SEAs and districts to obligate funds.
<b>American Rescue Plan (ESSER III)</b> Passed March 2021	\$126 Billion	\$2.75 billion *All for private schools	

*Each plan delivers more funding than the one before it, with ESSER II providing four times what schools received through the original CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan providing more than double the funds provided through ESSER II.*

**SEAs and school districts may use the funds for any activity permitted under other federal education laws** (think any activity allowed under ESEA, IDEA, AEFLA, Perkins, or McKinney-Vento Title VIIB). *Funds can be used for pre-award costs dating back to March 13, 2020.*

**As a leader in innovative and quality professional development for educators, Solution Tree welcomes the opportunity to design meaningful custom experiences that meet the intent of federal education funding and the specific needs of schools in the COVID-19 environment.** *All Solution Tree products and services meet the definition of eligible expenses under ESSER I and II and the American Rescue Plan.*

Table 2 highlights activities emphasized under the new legislation and provides a few examples of Solution Tree offerings that align with those activities.

**Table 2. Funding Emphasis Areas & Solution Tree Examples**

Funding Focus Area	Solution Tree Alignment
<p>Activities to address learning loss, including high-quality assessments to determine academic needs, evidence-based interventions, assistance to parents and families on how to support students, and tracking attendance and engagement in distance education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Learning Communities at Work®</li> <li>• High Impact Strategies to Address Continuous Improvement</li> <li>• Response to Intervention at Work™ and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support</li> <li>• Formative Assessment and Standards-Based Grading Practices</li> <li>• Prioritizing Standards to Close Learning Gaps</li> <li>• Building Student Agency: Personalization, Self-Assessment, and PBL</li> <li>• Support for Struggling and/or Priority Schools</li> <li>• Effective Instruction in Remote or Hybrid Learning Environments</li> <li>• Instructional Practices to Close Learning Gaps in Literacy or Mathematics</li> <li>• Our Parents as Partners</li> <li>• Redwood Learning</li> </ul>
<p>Activities to address the unique needs among low-income students, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, homeless students, disabled students, and youth living in foster care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transforming School Culture</li> <li>• Priority Schools in a PLC at Work</li> <li>• Yes We Can!: Inclusive Practices in Special Education</li> <li>• Culturally Responsive Teaching</li> <li>• Race, Culture, and Equity</li> <li>• Social-Emotional Learning</li> <li>• Trauma-Sensitive Instruction</li> <li>• Teaching English Learner Students in a Remote or Blended Learning Setting</li> </ul>
<p>Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coaching for Principals and District Administrators</li> <li>• Leading School Improvement</li> <li>• Building Effective Teams for Collective Teacher Efficacy</li> <li>• Self-Care and Professional Wellness for Educators</li> </ul>

**Additional Notes of Interest:**

- At least 20% of American Rescue Plan funds must be used to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions that respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs.
- The legislative intent of funds is to benefit all public schools and students regardless of school type. Therefore, even if a particular legislation does not directly address charter schools that are not a standalone district, funding is allowable for any public school.
- Only ESSER I requires equitable services to nonpublic schools (private schools are provided support through GEER, the allocation to governors in ESSER II and the American Rescue Plan).
- Money from each plan must be tracked separately by SEAs and districts.
- Funds cannot be used for state budget shortfalls. There are other relief dollars for shortfalls.
- A portion of American Rescue Plan funds will go to challenge grants focused on educational equity.