CARES Act
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund
Allowable Uses of Funds

Focus Areas	Allowable Expenditures

Planning for Long-Term Closures	• Professional development related to distance learning
	  o Vendors, courses, materials, and/or stipends for teacher participation
	• Training on effective instructional practices for parents and caregivers
	  o Vendors, courses, materials, and/or delivery platforms or mailing costs
	• Minimal advertising costs to promote virtual/remote learning to families
	• Wi-Fi support strategies (e.g. buses with Wi-Fi access parked in certain neighborhoods or creating Wi-Fi access hubs for "drive-in" supports in rural areas)
	• Postage cost for mailing home learning packets
	• Materials, printing, and copying costs associated with mailing learning packets to students
	• Online platform/program to facilitate and manage two-way communication with families
	• Tools or services to help parents navigate the community resources and systems available to assist with changes related to COVID-19
	• Expanding opportunities for students to participate in distance career and technical education and blended learning programs
	• Positions such as extra nurses, interventionists, support staff for remediation services, and staff who provide supports during after school or extended hours
	• Recruitment of additional substitute teachers
	• Additional sanitation and cleaning costs and/or personnel
	• Transportation costs associated with alternate schedules related to social distance requirements
	• Planning and implementing activities related to long-term closures

Unique Needs of Special Populations	• Services and activities to address the unique needs of children with disabilities including how services can be delivered that will meet their needs • Planning and coordinating activities, and providing guidance for implementing IDEA services • Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs • Providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of students with disabilities. • Professional development related to distance learning for supporting students with disabilities • Professional development related to distance learning for supporting English learners • Virtual instructional tools and resources designed to support English language development • Helping school personnel have meaningful interactions with students during school closures *Any activity authorized under IDEA*

Focus Areas	Allowable Expenditures
Education Technology	- Technology infrastructure, including devices and equipment for students and teachers - Purchasing software applications and digital platforms - Digital and online instructional resources - Devices or equipment to provide internet access (i.e., hot spots) for students who do not have access at home - Supplemental equipment and devices (i.e., computers, web cameras) for virtual learning/online instruction - Technology-related professional development for district and school staff - Technology support or training for parents and guardians - Integrating well-rounded educational services into online learning - Virtual instruction programs, platforms, and tools - Resources to engage all students and their families with virtual education, especially prioritize disadvantaged populations listed in CARES Act § 18003(d)(4)
Mental Health Supports	- Counseling and mental health supports - Professional development on the mental health services - Training for school personnel on suicide prevention, trauma, and related issues - Helping school personnel have meaningful interactions with students during school closures
Summer/ Supplemental Learning	- Support for online learning (i.e. curriculum, digital instructional materials, technology, etc.) - Instructional support services for summer engagement - Behavior support strategies for online environments - Coordinating with Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) to provide access to postsecondary courses - Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool tutoring - Summer learning and supplemental after-school programs targeted to prioritize disadvantaged populations listed in CARES Act § 18003(d)(4)
Other Approved Activities	- Developing feedback mechanisms to improve working conditions - Relationship-building skills and effective communication strategies - Behavior support strategies for online environments - Provide professional development or training to staff to use online learning platforms (virtual or in-person)