Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) 2.0 Fund Application Overview

Debby Thompson | Assistant Commissioner, Federal Programs & Oversight | January 2021

BEST FOR **ALL**

We will set all students on a path to success.

ACADEMICS

ALL TENNESSEE STUDENTS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION, NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE

WHOLE CHILD

TENNESSEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BE EQUIPPED TO SERVE THE ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS
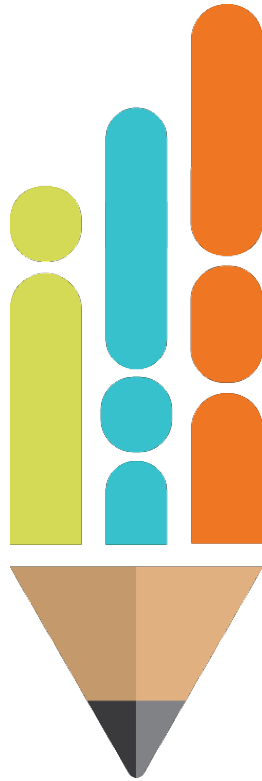
EDUCATORS

TENNESSEE WILL SET A NEW PATH FOR THE EDUCATION PROFESSION AND BE THE TOP STATE TO BECOME AND REMAIN A TEACHER AND LEADER

TN Department of Education

Agenda

- Overview

- Focus Areas

- Funding Application Overview

- Supports

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Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) Act

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) Act: Education Stabilization Fund

▪ The CRRSA Act provides **$81.9 billion new funding** for the Education Stabilization Fund, which includes:

$4.1 billion for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund, which governors can use at their discretion to support their K–12 and higher education needs related to COVID-19.

$54.3 billion for the ESSER Fund, which states can use for a wide range of purposes, including purchasing computers and hot spot devices for online learning; purchasing supplies for cleaning and sanitization; supporting professional development for educators; and supporting access to quality instruction for students with disabilities.

$21.7 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, which is awarded directly to institutions of higher education.

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Intent of Funds

The intent of the funding is to:

    1) **provide relief for existing needs, and**

    2) **plan for future needs.**

ESSER 1.0 Use of Funds

A summary of allowable uses of these **one-time funds** are listed below*****:

- purchasing **education technology** (including hardware, software, and connectivity);
- providing **summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs** (including online learning);
- planning **for long-term closures**;
- addressing the unique needs of **special populations**;
- providing **mental health services**; and
- conducting **other activities** necessary to maintain operation of services and employing existing staff and coordination activities, including childcare and the needs of principals and school leaders.

*Including those uses of funds authorized under ESEA, CTE, IDEA, Adult Ed and McKinney-Vento; and it applies Title I equitable services provisions for students and teachers in non-publics.

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ESSER 2.0 Use of Funds

A summary of allowable uses of these **one-time funds** are listed below:

- **NEW** *Addressing Learning Loss—*
  - Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency.

- **NEW** *Addressing Learning Acceleration—*
  - Addressing learning acceleration among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency.

- **NEW** *Addressing Facility Needs and Deferred Maintenance—*
  - School facility 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.

Application Focus Areas

NEW: Addressing Learning Loss*

Allowable expenditures for conducting other necessary activities may include:

- a position to compile and disaggregate data on learning loss,
- expand current learning loss or accelerating progress to close learning gaps through the implementation, expansion, or enhancement of learning supports,
- extend the instructional school year by adjusting the academic calendar, increasing the number of instructional minutes provided during each week or school day,
- employ additional staff members to reduce class size or increase the amount of instructional time, and
- create a system of supports to provide services to pupils based on their learning needs.

Expenditures in this focus area will require a more detailed rationale/support.

NEW: Addressing Learning Acceleration*

Allowable expenditures for conducting other necessary activities may include:

- 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, and
- summer learning and supplemental after-school programs targeted to prioritize disadvantaged populations listed in CARES Act § 18003(d)(4).

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NEW: Addressing Facility Needs and Deferred Maintenance*

Allowable expenditures for conducting other necessary activities may include:

- replacing a roof would be an allowable use, especially if the LEA can correlate to environmental health and the correlation to supporting student health needs;
- replacing sealed windows with ones that open;
- replacing old ventilation systems;
- further, inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities; and
- updating mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification, and other air cleaning, fans, control systems to improve air quality.

*Expenditures in this focus area will require a more detailed rationale/support.

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Education Technology

Allowable expenditures for education technology may include:

- purchasing hardware and software,
- providing internet connectivity to support online/distance learning,
- purchasing assistive technology, and
- purchasing adaptive equipment.

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Unique Needs of Special Populations

Allowable expenditures for addressing the unique needs of special populations may include:

- providing guidance for carrying out requirements under IDEA,
- providing teletherapy service for students,
- providing virtual instructional tools and resources designed to support English language development, and
- helping school personnel have meaningful interactions with students during school closures.

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Long-Term Closures

Allowable expenditures for planning for long-term closures may include:

- providing meals to eligible students,
- conducting professional development opportunities to provide education services during closures,
- providing guidance for carrying out requirements under the IDEA, and
- planning to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all federal, state, and local requirements.

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Mental Health Supports

Allowable expenditures for addressing mental health supports may include:

- providing professional development for teachers,
- conducting tele-therapy sessions with students,
- counseling and mental health supports,
- conducting training for school personnel on suicide prevention, trauma, and related topics, and
- helping school personnel have meaningful interactions with students during school closures.

Other Necessary Activities

Allowable expenditures for conducting other necessary activities may include:

- taking necessary steps to maintain the operation of services,
- providing principal and school leaders necessary resources,
- training staff on sanitation and minimizing spread of infectious disease,
- purchasing supplies to clean and sanitize facilities of the LEA, and
- developing processes and procedures to improve preparedness and response efforts.

*Expenditures in this focus area will require a more detailed rationale/support.

Funding Application Overview

Application Timeline

Jan. 20 • Application opens in ePlan (tentative)

Jan. 20 • FPO-hosted office hours start

March 1 • Application due in ePlan (tentative)

March • Application reviewed by department staff

April 1 • All applications approved in ePlan (tentative)
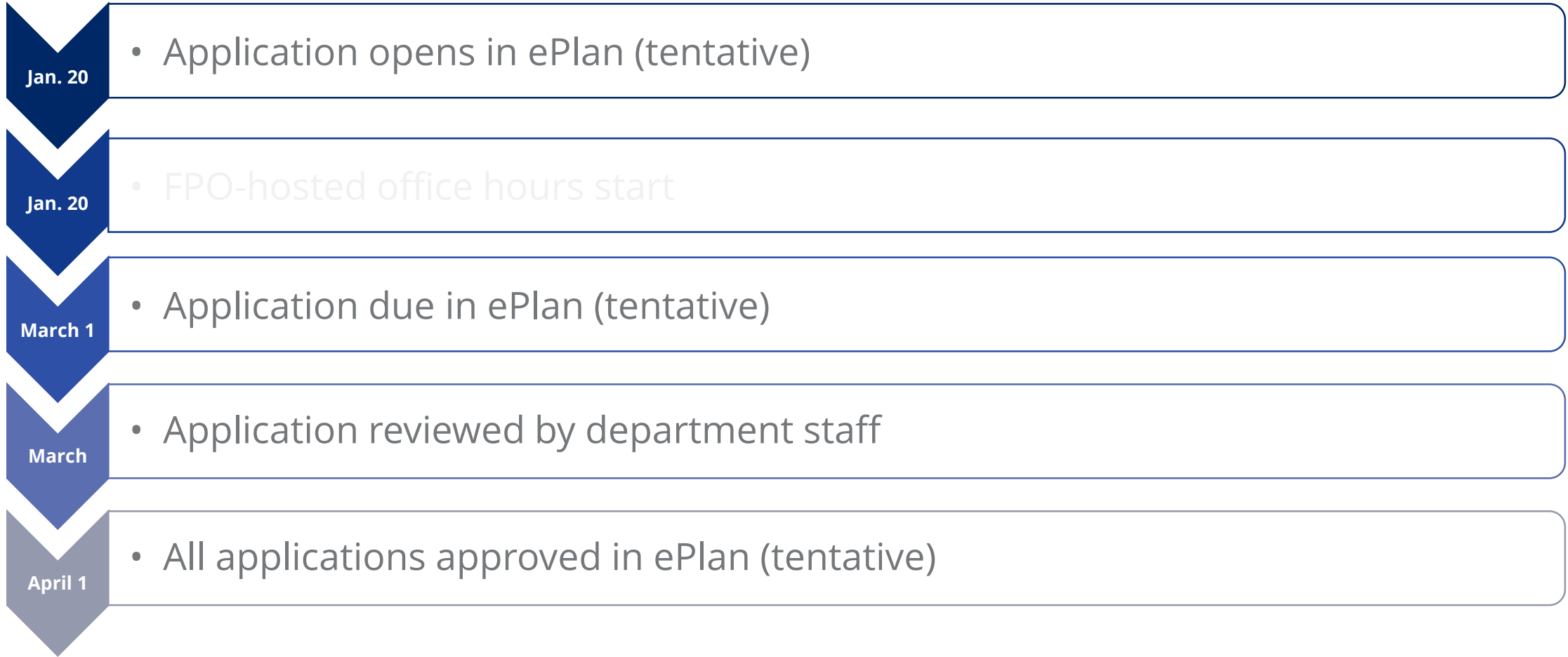
Cover Page

Point of Contact must complete:

- LEA Name and Number
- LEA Official Address and Phone Number
- LEA Website
- Director of Schools Name and Contact Information
- ESSER Fund 2.0 POC and Contact Information

Program Details: Administration

- The reasonable and necessary costs to manage the federal grant in a compliant and effective manner.

- LEAs must select one of the following:

  - The LEA **is not** utilizing grant funds to administer the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act. Provide a summary of how the grant program will be administered, including the title of the staff responsible for the grant administration, the FTE(s), and the other funding sources that will contribute to administrative staff salaries/benefits.

  - The LEA **is** utilizing grant funds to administer the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act.

Program Details: Planning

- Reflect on the challenges that the LEA faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. What prioritized needs did the LEA identify during the pandemic?

Program Details:
Learning Loss and Acceleration

- Provide information on how your LEA is measuring and addressing learning loss and how ESSER Fund 2.0 funds will support these measures.

NEW: Personnel Charts

- Indicate headcounts (HC) for each staff member paid with grant funds. These must always be a whole number and must match throughout the section if mentioned more than once.

- Enter both a headcount and an FTE for all system-wide instructional and support staff supported with the ESSER Fund 2.0. System-wide staff are employees not assigned to a building and work across the LEA in multiple school sites as necessary, but not as part of a planned assignment.

- FTEs must match FTEs identified in budget narratives (individually and the sum). Titles of staff must match titles identified within budget narratives.

- Reference identified staff within the narrative description of administration within the Program Details page (titles and FTEs must match)

New: Spending Plan

- The amount of funds to be spent in support of focus area will auto-calculate from the budget tags.

- For each program selected, provide a clear narrative description of the activities, programs, and services to be funded, and the district plan strategy these activities support.

- Please note the amount budgeted on this page must be equal the amount budgeted and tagged using budget tags in the line items.

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LEA-Level Questions: Charter Schools Page

- Outline the process used to ensure charter schools are receiving ESSER Fund 2.0 benefits equal to their traditional public school counterparts.

- **NEW:** All charter schools must complete a **Charter School Needs Assessment** document and submit it to their LEA Point of Contact by **Feb. 15.**

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ESSER Fund 2.0 Charter School

- LEA Agreement to Charter Schools
- Charter Schools Agreement with LEA
- Charter School Information
- LEA Information
- Prioritized Needs
- Current Enrollment
- Grade Span Served

Assurances

- LEA Assurances
- Charter School Assurances

Resources & Closing

Department of Education

Recently Released Resources

- In ePlan > TDOE Resources > CRRSA Act/ESSER Fund 2.0
  - [Q&A ESSER 2.0 Fund Updated 2021.01.15](#)
  - [U.S. Department of Education: ESSER Fund 2.0 Fact Sheet Jan. 5, 2021](#)
  - [ESSER 2.0 Allocations](#)
  - [ESSER Fund 2.0 Application Office Hours](#)
  - [FPO Divisional Coordinator Map for ESSER Funds](#)
  - [ESSER Fund 2.0 Charter School Needs Assessment](#)
  - [Q&A ESSER Fund 2.0 Allowable Costs 2020.01.13](#)

Office Hours

- [ESSER Fund 2.0 Application Office Hours](#)
- Scheduled three times a week (M, W, F) during the application window, alternating between the morning and afternoon (starting **Jan. 20**).

- LEAs are encouraged to attend virtual office hours offered by FPO to ask questions and glean insights and ideas from other stakeholders.

- To make these office hours beneficial, please bring questions and plans for the development of the LEA's ESSER Fund 2.0 Application. Questions and ideas will be compiled and shared out daily via a Q&A document in ePlan.

Contact Information

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