

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) Equivalent

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This document is a resource for ESSER Equivalent recovery funding grant information. The same document has been created for ESSER recovery funding grants. Both FAQs will be updated throughout the life cycle of the grants. The date this FAQ was last updated is located in the top left header. Additional updates will be announced in the K12 Grants Newsletter and LEA Look forward.

The term “ESSER Equivalent” is used throughout this document to reference all three ESSER Equivalent federal recovery funding grants. If a question or answer is only relevant to one specific ESSER Equivalent grant, the name of that grant will be clearly indicated.

Each question in the Table of Contents is hyperlinked to the answer location. Key terms can be searched by using the ‘ctrl Find’ function.

In addition to these FAQs, the [OSSE Recovery Funding website](#) includes resources that you may access to support your LEA in planning for these funds including:

- [Allocations](#)
- [Funding Strategy Guide](#)
- [Application Webinars](#)
- [Construction Webinar](#)
- [Allowable Uses](#)
- [Budget Codes](#)

Please contact OSSE.ESSER@dc.gov if you have questions that are not answered in this document.

Contents

Overview of ESSER Equivalent.....	3
1. What are the allowable uses of ESSER Equivalent grants?	3
Eligibility and Applications.....	3
1. How do I know if I am eligible for ESSER Equivalent recovery funding grants?.....	3
2. As a Non-Title I, Part A K-12 LEA, what are the ESSER Equivalent recovery funding timelines?	4
3. As a Non-Title I, Part A, Adult or Early Childhood LEA, what are the ESSER Equivalent recovery funding timelines?	5
4. How can I find my ESSER Equivalent allocations?	5
5. How do I apply for each ESSER Equivalent recovery funding grant?	5
ESSER Equivalent Requirements.....	6
6. If an LEA would like to use these funds towards construction costs, would they need to follow the ESSER construction guidelines?	6
7. Are LEAs with ESSER Equivalent funding required to meet the 20 percent set aside to address learning loss requirement, Maintenance of Equity, or return to in-person instruction plan requirements?	6
8. Do LEAs need to review, sign, and submit assurances outside of EGMS for my ESSER III Equivalent funds?.....	6
9. How are ESSER Equivalent allocations determined?.....	6
Communications and Technical Assistance.....	6
10. How can LEAs make sure they do not miss any updates or new information regarding ESSER recovery funding grants?	6
11. What webinars and trainings are offered to guide LEAs through the application and other processes? ..	6
12. Who should I reach out to with questions regarding ESSER recovery funding grants?	7

Overview of ESSER Equivalent

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the United States Department of Education (USED) has provided the District of Columbia with recovery funding through three federal grant programs:

- ESSER I-CARES: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
- ESSER II-CRRSA: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
- ESSER III-ARP: American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

As a part of each law, LEAs receiving Title I, Part A in FY21 are eligible for the ESSER recovery funding grants for that year. To support non-Title I, Part A LEAs, OSSE created ESSER Equivalent from available funds to provide non-Title I, Part A LEAs with recovery funding.

For non-Title 1, Part A LEAs that serve grades K-12:

ESSER II Equivalent grants follow a unique application process.

ESSER Equivalent LEAs applied directly to the ESSER II Equivalent through the Enterprise Grants Management System ([EGMS](#)) application, and ESSER I Equivalent and ESSER III Equivalent can be accessed through the FY21 SOAR Formula Combined and FY22 SOAR Formula Combined Consolidated applications, respectively. ESSER I and III Equivalent grants follow the SOAR Formula Combined Allowable Uses.

The allowable uses for ESSER and ESSER Equivalent are the same. However, some of the new provisions under ESSER III-ARP do not apply to the ESSER III Equivalent funds, such as the 20 percent learning loss, Maintenance of Equity, and return to in-person instruction plan provisions.

For non-Title 1, Part A Adult and Early Childhood LEAs:

Both ESSER I Equivalent and ESSER II Equivalent funding are accessed through the FY21 SOAR Formula Combined application, and ESSER III Equivalent is accessed through FY22 SOAR Formula Combined Consolidated, all of which follow the SOAR Formula Combined Allowable Uses.

1. What are the allowable uses of ESSER Equivalent grants?

Essentially, all ESSER Equivalent grants follow the same allowable uses as [ESSER recovery funding grants](#) and [SOAR Allowable Uses](#). Further detail on the ESSER Equivalent allowable uses is below.

Eligibility and Applications

2. How do I know if I am eligible for ESSER Equivalent recovery funding grants?

All LEAs that are not eligible to receive Title I, Part A funding are eligible for ESSER Equivalent grants. However, depending on whether the non-Title I, Part A LEA is K-12, Adult, or Early Childhood, the grant applications will be accessed in different ways. The table below shows how each application can be accessed in [EGMS](#).

ESSER Equivalent for K-12 LEAs			
	ESSER I Equivalent	ESSER II Equivalent	ESSER III Equivalent
Allowable Uses of Funds	ESSER Equivalent Grants have the same allowable uses of funds as ESSER Recovery Funding.		
Period of Availability	July 1, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2022	March 13, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2023	July 15, 2021 to Sept. 30, 2023
Applying in FY22	Submit Continuation Application by March 4, 2022, at 3 p.m.	Submit Application by May 31, 2022, at 3 p.m.	Submit Continuation Application by March 4, 2022, at 3 p.m.
EGMS Application	FY22 SOAR Formula Combined	FY22 ESSER II Equivalent	FY22 SOAR Formula Combined Consolidated
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application and Reimbursements SOAR Reporting Requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application and Reimbursements Additional Data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application and Reimbursements SOAR Reporting Requirements

ESSER Equivalent for Early Childhood and Adult Education LEAs			
	ESSER I Equivalent	ESSER II Equivalent	ESSER III Equivalent
Allowable Uses of Funds	ESSER Equivalent Grants have the same allowable uses of funds as ESSER Recovery Funding.		
Period of Availability	July 1, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2022	July 1, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2022	July 15, 2021 to Sept. 30, 2023
Applying in FY22	Submit Continuation Application by March 4, 2022, at 3 p.m.	LEAs can complete their continuation application since FY21 closeout was submitted	Submit Continuation Application by March 4, 2022, at 3 p.m.
EGMS Application	FY22 SOAR Formula Combined	FY22 SOAR Formula Combined	FY22 SOAR Formula Combined Consolidated
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application and Reimbursements SOAR Reporting Requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application and Reimbursements SOAR Reporting Requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application and Reimbursements SOAR Reporting Requirements

Additionally, there are lists posted on the [OSSE Recovery Funding Website](#) that explain which LEAs are eligible for which ESSER recovery funding grants.

3. As a Non-Title I, Part A K-12 LEA, what are the ESSER Equivalent recovery funding timelines?

ESSER Equivalent for Non-Title I, Part A K12 LEAs	
	Period of Availability
ESSER I Equivalent	July 1, 2020-Sept. 30, 2022
ESSER II Equivalent	March 13, 2020-Sept. 30, 2023
ESSER III Equivalent	July 15, 2021-Sept. 30, 2023

4. As a Non-Title I, Part A, Adult or Early Childhood LEA, what are the ESSER Equivalent recovery funding timelines?

ESSER Equivalent for Adult and Early Childhood LEAs	
	Period of Availability
ESSER I Equivalent	July 1, 2020-Sept. 30, 2022
ESSER II Equivalent	March 13, 2020-Sept. 30, 2023
ESSER III Equivalent	July 15, 2021-Sept. 30, 2023

5. How can I find my ESSER Equivalent allocations?

ESSER I Equivalent allocations are [here](#). These allocations were added to the FY21 SOAR Formula Combined grant for all non-Title I, Part A K-12, Adult, and Early Childhood LEAs.

ESSER II Equivalent allocations for non-Title I, Part A K-12 LEAs are [here](#). For non-Title I, Part A K-12 LEAs, these allocations will be made available through the ESSER II Equivalent application. Non-Title I, Part A Adult and Early Childhood LEAs allocations were added to the FY21 SOAR Formula Combined grant, [here](#).

ESSER III Equivalent allocations are [here](#). These allocations were added to the FY22 SOAR Formula Combined Consolidated grant for all non-Title I, Part A K-12, Adult, and Early Childhood LEAs.

6. How do I apply for each ESSER Equivalent recovery funding grant?

ESSER I Equivalent

LEAs already applied for ESSER I Equivalent funding in December 2020 as part of their FY21 SOAR Formula Combined grant in [EGMS](#). The application process is closed and only amendments can be submitted.

ESSER II Equivalent

ESSER II Equivalent allocations were added to Adult and Early Childhood LEAs FY21 SOAR Formula Combined grants. To access these funds, LEAs needed to create an amendment in EGMS and upload a [Letter of Rationale](#) in the Supporting Documentation tab.

Non-Title I, Part A K-12 LEAs have a separate ESSER II Equivalent grant application, which can be found in EGMS. FY22 applications are due by May 31, 2022.

Further information can be found in the [ESSER II Application Webinar](#).

ESSER III Equivalent

ESSER III Equivalent allocations were made available Sept. 10, 2021, through the FY22 SOAR Formula Combined grant application in [EGMS](#).

See the below summary of where ESSER Equivalent allocations are located by eligibility status.

ESSER Equivalent Applications			
	ESSER I-CARES Equivalent	ESSER II-CRRSA Equivalent	ESSER III-ARP Equivalent
Non-Title I, Part A K-12 LEAs	FY21 SOAR Formula Combined Application	ESSER II Equivalent Application	FY22 SOAR Formula Combined Consolidated Application

Non-Title I, Part A Adult and Early Childhood LEAs	FY21 SOAR Formula Combined Application	FY21 SOAR Formula Combined Application	FY22 SOAR Formula Combined Consolidated Application
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ESSER Equivalent Requirements

7. If an LEA would like to use these funds towards construction costs, would they need to follow the ESSER construction guidelines?

The [construction guidelines](#) from ESSER also apply to ESSER Equivalent in Non-Title I, Part A K-12 LEAs.

8. Are LEAs with ESSER Equivalent funding required to meet the 20 percent set aside to address learning loss requirement, Maintenance of Equity, or return to in-person instruction plan requirements?

No. None of these requirements apply to ESSER Equivalent LEAs.

9. Do LEAs need to review, sign, and submit assurances outside of EGMS for my ESSER III Equivalent funds?

No. LEAs will sign off on assurances for ESSER Equivalent grants in EGMS if needed.

10. How are ESSER Equivalent allocations determined?

ESSER Equivalent allocations are made on a per-pupil basis, based on available funding. See the below per-pupil amounts for each equivalent grant.

ESSER Equivalent Grant	Per-Pupil Funding Rate
ESSER I Equivalent	\$190.00
ESSER II Equivalent	\$780.00
ESSER III Equivalent	\$549.29

Communications and Technical Assistance

11. How can LEAs make sure they do not miss any updates or new information regarding ESSER recovery funding grants?

OSSE’s Division of Systems and Supports K12 Grant Newsletter provides updates and new information regarding ESSER funds and all other federal funds. To subscribe, ask your LEA data managers to register you as a “LEA Finance/Grants Manager” in [eSchoolPLUS](#).

12. What webinars and trainings are offered to guide LEAs through the application and other processes?

Webinars are hosted periodically throughout the ESSER Equivalent recovery funding grant life cycles. Ask your grant manager or look in the Division of Systems and Supports K12 grants newsletter for upcoming webinars dates and registration. All past webinars and corresponding slides are recorded and posted on the [OSSE](#)

Updated: 3/14/2022

[Recovery Funding website](#) for non-Title I, Part A LEAs. Webinars for other LEAs are recorded and posted on the [SOAR website](#).

13. Who should I reach out to with questions regarding ESSER recovery funding grants?

You can send generic questions to OSSE.ESSER@dc.gov. Additionally, your [grant manager](#) is available to answer questions.

If you are not yet familiar with your manager, click [here](#) for a list of ESSER grant managers.