



ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDING AND THE ARTS

What: The American Rescue Plan Act provides resources to school districts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Education portion (\$125 billion) of this funding, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief's (ESSER III or ARP ESSER) purpose is to help schools and districts safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and must respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

When: Over the next three years as follows:

FY22: Upon approval – 6/30/2022 (Year 1).

FY22 ESSER III grant awards will be extended into FY23 - 7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023 (Year 2)

FY24 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024 (Year 3)

FY25 7/1/2024 – 9/30/2024 (Year 4).

Where: Funds will be disbursed through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education:
www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2022/119/

Who: Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) - allocations by community: www.doe.mass.edu/grants/entitlement-allocation.aspx?view=code&fy=2022&code=119

How: Through Title I channels, however the allocations are independent of Title I policies.

How can the ESSER III funds be used in arts education? The funds can be used for “activities that are necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of services, including continuing to employ existing or hiring new LEA and school staff”, including arts educators.

- For ESSER III funds, Local Educational Agencies must use at least 20% of funds to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions that respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs.
 - Arts Education & Social Emotional Learning Framework: selarts.org
 - The Arts Advantage: tinyurl.com/edvestors
- Supporting training for arts educators on strategies to conduct in-person arts instruction safely.
- Adding and replenishing consumable materials and supplies, purchasing capital arts equipment
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize tools and equipment.
- Purchasing devices for internet connectivity, laptops, and/or supplemental software that would allow for instruction and assessment through virtual means.
- Paying for additional instruction, such as through an adjunct teacher, private lessons instructor, or full-time teacher, to provide remediation in the arts.
- After-school and summer learning programs to accelerate arts learning and support social–emotional learning.
- Purchasing materials to set up the arts classroom/studio with physical distance between students

Arts for All recommends the **PASS** process for accessing ESSER III funding for your arts program:

P LAN	A SK	S HOW	S UCCEED
Plan an arts project on your own or with colleagues	Ask your administrators and colleagues for feedback	Show how funding will be used to support the arts in your school community	Succeed in adding to, rebuilding, or restoring your arts program

Share your successes with us at massartsforall@gmail.com and on social media with hashtag **#ArtsPASS** & **#ArtsMA**

Links and Resources

Massachusetts ESSER Resources

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ESSER website: www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/esser/

Massachusetts Allocations by Community: www.doe.mass.edu/grants/entitlement-allocation.aspx?view=code&fy=2022&code=119

Federal ESSER Resources

FAQs about ESSER: oese.ed.gov/files/2020/05/ESSER-Fund-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf

FAQ on ESSER (including state- and local-level questions): oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf

ESSER Fund Certification and Agreement: oese.ed.gov/files/2020/04/ESSERF-Certification-and-Agreement.pdf

Department of Elementary & Secondary Education ESSER Info: oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/

US Department of Education State Plan Template: www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-education-department-releases-state-plan-template-american-rescue-plan-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-Relief-fund

Independent ESSER Resources

EdVestors The Arts Advantage: http://www.edvestors.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/The-Arts-Advantage-Impacts-of-Arts-Education-on-Boston-Students_Brief-FINAL.pdf

FutureEd ESSER Guidance: www.future-ed.org/getting-to-yes-on-covid-relief-spending/?mc_cid=091bb7255c&mc_eid=83d0799859

American Academy of Arts and Sciences Art for Life's Sake: www.amacad.org/sites/default/files/publication/downloads/2021-Arts-for-Lifes-Sake.pdf

Massachusetts Arts Association ESSER Resources

Massachusetts Art Education Association ESSER Guidance: massarted.com/2021/08/03/esser_funding/

National Arts Association ESSER Resources

National Art Education Association Town Hall Conversations (ESSER): drive.google.com/file/d/1QsTLlcpL-S12CvshQsGk7aWrLCPSUDon/view

National Association for Music Education ESSER Funding Toolkit: nafme.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ESSER-Funding-Toolkit-2021.pdf



Arts for All is a coalition of non-profit organizations and public agencies. Together we work in collaboration to ensure all students have equitable access to and active participation in a robust arts education through the entire public education spectrum.