

North Dakota ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for North Dakota: \$305,338,029

ARP ESSER funding released to North Dakota on March 24, 2021: \$203,511,253

ARP ESSER funding released to North Dakota on August 12, 2021: \$101,826,776

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 114,955

Top Priorities within North Dakota's Plan:

- Counteract COVID fatigue among students, families, educators, and staff across the state
- Address equity gaps and disparities in learning opportunity
- Address educator shortages

Highlights of North Dakota's Plan:

- **Returning to In Person Learning in 2021:** The vast majority of North Dakota schools returned to in-person learning in August and September 2020, at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and will remain in-person for the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) worked together with North Dakota Department of Health (NDDOH), the North Dakota United Teachers' Union, and school districts to communicate with educators about available vaccination options. A COVID Vaccine Locator was developed by the NDDOH to assist individuals in identifying vaccine availability near them. A vaccine video resource library was also developed and included resources and videos on a variety of topics that included COVID-19 updates and information.
- **Investing in Early Learning:** NDDPI is partnering with North Dakota Department of Human Services to use \$7 million of ARP ESSER funds to offer high-quality, well-resourced classrooms for 4-year-olds through grants of \$120,000 available to public, private, and religious organizations. The classroom cohort size can be no smaller than 14 students and programs must adhere to exemplar professional development and instructional strategy coaching guidelines.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** NDDPI will implement several evidenced-based interventions, such as summer school, Comprehensive Literacy State Development grants, development of priority standards, and the Innovation Zone Project, which addresses unfinished learning by blending adaptive digital and online curriculums with traditional classroom instruction. Evidence-based interventions also will include several reading and early learning programs, and Exact Path, an online tool that combines adaptive diagnostics with individualized instruction and learning paths for K-12 students.
- **Investing in Summer Learning and Expanded Afterschool Programs:** NDDPI has expanded in person summer school for all students in grades K-12 and made an online learning system available to all schools and students, which will provide free tutoring for math (pre-algebra through calculus), SAT prep, AP prep, and college applications. NDDPI will also use ARP ESSER funds for evidence-based comprehensive afterschool programs to offer before and after school grant opportunities statewide. Eligible applicants include school districts, community-based organizations such as the Boys/Girls Clubs, YMCAs, and other agencies providing services to schools.
- **Community Engagement and Consultation:** Among other stakeholder outreach activities, the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders, in collaboration with the NDDPI and the North

Dakota School Boards Association, held a statewide convening to discuss the ARP ESSER requirements and brainstorm ideas on the potential use of these resources. This convening had close to 100 percent participation from all North Dakota school districts.

- **When North Dakota LEA Use of Funds Plans will be Due:** August 24, 2021