

Virginia ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Virginia: \$2,110,988,891

ARP ESSER funding released to Virginia on March 24, 2021: \$1,406,327,167

ARP ESSER funding released to Virginia on October 14, 2021: \$704,661,724

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 1,250,713

Top Priorities within Virginia's Plan:

- Addressing the needs of students struggling to make academic progress due to pandemic conditions
- Meeting the physical and mental health of students following the pandemic

Highlights of Virginia's Plan:

- **Returning to In-Person Learning in 2021:** Virginia legislation requires all Virginia public schools to open for all students in-person for the 2021-2022 school year. The only exceptions are temporary building-level closures required by the local health department to contain an outbreak of COVID-19.
- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** All schools are offering in-person instruction to students while implementing mitigation measures and supporting student and staff vaccination efforts. A Public Health Order requires the use of masks by students and staff indoors on public and private school grounds. Schools throughout the state are continuing to work with local health departments to provide access to COVID-19 vaccines, and are ramping up those plans in anticipation of approval of vaccines for children.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** VDOE will use some ARP ESSER funding for competitive grants to school districts, grants and agreements with institutions of higher education, and other state-led initiatives. Districts may use these funds for purposes including providing support for students, particularly those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, to address academic, social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs, reducing class size, hiring tutors and paraprofessionals, providing literacy and numeracy kits to families, purchasing instructional resources, and professional development opportunities. Institutions of higher education will participate in initiatives including creating tutoring programs and training educators and community partners.
- **Investing in Expanded Afterschool Programs:** VDOE will provide competitive grants to school districts to fund afterschool programming, engage community partners, provide acceleration services, reduce class/tutoring ratios, hire staff (including support staff), provide technology, fund subscriptions to virtual course options, and support student transportation. Criteria will include responsiveness to students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs, as well as how student groups most in need of services will be identified to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19, such as those students missing the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years or not consistently participating in remote instruction when offered during school building closures.

- **Instructional Staffing to Support Students' Needs:** VDOE is using \$11.5 million in ARP ESSER funding to support recruitment efforts for school districts to fill instructional positions between August and November 2021. School districts experiencing the most acute difficulties in recruiting qualified teachers will receive funding priority.
- **When Virginia's LEA Use of Funds Plans were due:** August 1, 2021