

## Mississippi ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Mississippi: \$1,628,366,137

ARP ESSER funding released to Mississippi on March 24, 2021: \$1,084,798,569

ARP ESSER funding released to Mississippi on December 29, 2021: \$543,567,568

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 442,627

### **Top Priorities:**

- Improving internet connectivity and access to technology for all students, particularly for rural students and students from low-income backgrounds
- Addressing the mental health needs of students
- Supporting students' social-emotional development

### **Highlights of Mississippi's Plan:**

- **Returning to In Person Learning in 2021:** Face-to-face instruction is the primary mode of instruction for all schools in the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has encouraged districts to consider how to host vaccination drives on school campuses, in addition to sharing Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations and guidance on safe in-person instruction with schools and districts in the state. Mississippi schools have also utilized various strategies to increase vaccination rates in the schools and communities.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** MDE will use ARP ESSER funds to support high-dosage tutoring, summer learning and enrichment, and extended day programs through a competitive grant program to address students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs that the state is developing.
- **Supporting Physical and Mental Health:** MDE has launched a behavioral telehealth project in response to mental health concerns that may have been exacerbated by the pandemic, staffed by school staff. MDE is also using ARP funds for a pilot program to deliver mental and behavioral health care to children and increase educator knowledge about behavioral management techniques. Additionally, MDE has awarded funds to put 25 new medical staff on-site in schools.
- **When Mississippi's LEA Use of Funds Plans were due:** August 30, 2021