

Considerations for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) to Support Students with Disabilities

The purpose of this document is to provide district leaders with considerations for the use of ESSER funds to support students with disabilities. ESSER funds may support: (1) the return to safe in-person learning; (2) high-quality instruction and essential services; (3) mitigating learning loss; and (4) addressing educational disparities and inequities. **ESSER funds can be used for any purposes allowable under the IDEA** to help recoup, support, or accelerate learning for students with disabilities, including compensatory services, extended school year services, and access to summer learning programs. This also includes supports for preschool-aged students with disabilities.

The following is a list of potential expenditures, provided as a resource to initiate planning for student and staff needs. *This is not an exhaustive list.*

Equipment & Technology

- Technology devices for remote learning
- Hot spots/Wi-Fi systems
- Subscription services for secure document signing/sharing
- Subscription services to academic sites/online educational resources
- Online book subscriptions
- Performance measurement tools
- Printers/scanners
- iPad/laptops for itinerant staff
- Software or hardware to support virtual/distance learning
- Software to support communications between home and school (e.g., Class Dojo, Remind 101, etc.)

Staffing/Personnel

- Additional staff or stipends for staff
- Substitute teaching staff
- Additional/contracted assessment specialists
- Direct and related service providers to deliver compensatory and/or extended school year (ESY) services
- Mental health professionals
- Nurses
- Contract services, including teletherapy services
- Assistive Technology specialists
- Custodial services
- Behavioral services
- ESL teachers
- Additional staff to address the increased supports, services, learning loss, etc.

Classroom/Student Materials

- Extra sets of toys (EC)/manipulatives
- Classroom supplies (e.g., consumables)
- Class wide curricula (e.g., social skills, emotional regulation, oral language development, etc.)
- Safety equipment for the classroom—hydraulic changing table, student work centers, safe emotional regulation spaces, replacement equipment
- Reinforcers for additional mental health support plans
- Sensory materials individualized for students
- Lockers, tubs, or standing closets for student personal care items
- Shipping/delivery costs of materials to student homes
- Reading materials duplicates for the home to minimize transfer of materials among spaces

Health & Safety

- Transportation costs
- Additional space to accommodate social distancing, minimal contact services
- Cleaning supplies
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)—for staff and/or students
- Air filtration systems
- Plexiglass
- Thermometers
- Tape (to mark distance)
- Additional positioning equipment to reduce sharing among students
- Washer/dryer

Assistive Technology for SWD

- Communication systems (i.e., low tech and high tech)
- Equipment for access (e.g., switches, mounting equipment, etc.)
- Positioning equipment to access switches, computers, etc.
- Subscriptions to communication symbol creators (e.g., BoardMaker, LessonPix, etc.)
- Consumables for visual supports and communication systems (e.g., color ink, Velcro, lamination film, etc.)
- Equipment/devices for trials/loans
- Adapted technology (e.g., touchscreen monitors, adapted keyboards, etc.)
- Text to Speech software
- Promethean boards

Materials/Support for Special Education Staff

- Assessment materials (e.g., test kits, protocols)
- Specialized professional development
- Online subscriptions for provider PD/CEUs (e.g., exceptionalchild.com, speechpathology.com, etc.)
- Therapy materials, mental health curriculum
- Training in online delivery of services
- Training on mental health supports/practices for students and teachers

Transition and Work Readiness

- Additional transportation cost for smaller, socially distant groups
- Additional job coaching—compensatory or ESY job coaching if needed
- School-based enterprise start-up to create a socially distant, safe work environment
- PAES (Practical Assessment Exploration System) lab or similar materials—purchasing additional PAES to set home kits during virtual learning/distance learning
- Transition assessment protocols or kits—particularly to address inequities or high-quality instruction

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