

# UPDATES ON FEDERAL PANDEMIC FUNDS, TEACHER LICENSURE & VACANCIES, CALCULATOR TOOL ERROR, & OTHER UPDATES

*Presented to the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee*

*May 16, 2023*



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# OPENING REMARKS - SUPERINTENDENT COONS

- Teacher vacancies and licensure
- Reading Specialists
- ESSER funds

# TEACHER VACANCIES

- The state-wide vacancy rate change from October 2021 to October 2022 was 26.14%
- As of October 2022, the state-wide vacancy rate was 3.86%, which equates to about 3602 teachers

Teacher/Group Type	State-wide Vacancy Rate as of Oct. 2022
Elementary, PK-6	4.30%
Special Education	5.80%
Mathematics	4.00%
English Language and Literature	3.20%
Life and Physical Sciences	3.60%

*\* New data will be reported June 1, 2023.*

# TEACHER LICENSURE UPDATE

- **Current Status of Licensure Backlog**

- There are currently 20,000 active licenses expiring on June 30, 2023
- This amount is significantly higher than normal because licensure renewal was extended during 2020 & 2021

- **Immediate Solutions**

- The Board of Education has approved an emergency rule to extend the expiration date of renewable licenses expiring 6/30/23 to 6/30/24
- The DRTS team created a single sign-on process to accelerate division superintendents' ability to submit provisional licensure requests
- Of those active licenses, approximately 4,500 are provisional
- VDOE has 1,700 pending requests for evaluations of initial licenses, with an expected spike in May-June. To address this high volume, VDOE has added 12 part-time staff, a dedicated phone support line, and 6 additional administrative staff to manage the current paper requirements of licensure

# TEACHER LICENSURE UPDATE

## **New FULLY Digital Teacher Licensure system will launch on 9/1/23:**

1. An upgraded and user-friendly system interface which will reinforce accessibility, efficiency, and streamline internal workflows
2. Expanded system capacity centralizing the process for all types of licensure requests via the online portal eliminating the need for mailed documentation
3. Increased transparency surrounding the licensure process by allowing applicants and employing educational agencies to track licensure requests in the system
4. Enhanced communication among all stakeholders as applicants and employing educational agencies will receive secure email notifications through the platform
5. The new platform will give license holders the ability to submit and track professional development activities and points for license renewals
6. School divisions will have the ability to view up to date and in-depth licensure information for their employees

# READING SPECIALIST UPDATE

## *Current Reading Specialist tracking:*

Total Number of Reading Specialists Reported by Divisions in FY23	Statewide Total RS Needed for Current SOQ Requirement (1:550 for K-3), FY24 data	Difference from Reported	Statewide Total RS Needed for SOQ Expansion in SB 1175 (eff. FY25) (1:550 for K-5; 1:1,100 for 6-8), FY24 data	Difference from Reported
1,027	641	386	1,247	-220

- We have enough Reading Specialists statewide now to ensure the 1:550 ratio for our K-3 population (even K-5), but not for the expanded SOQ RS standard in SB 1175 (effective FY25).
- The statewide report also indicates that we have 35 reading specialist vacancies (>3%).

# **FEDERAL PANDEMIC FUNDS UPDATE**

# ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSER) FUNDS

- ESSER I, II, & III funds provided to states under three separate federal acts: CARES, CRRSA, ARPA
- 90% of funds required to be allocated to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs - i.e., school divisions) based on Title I formula; 10% of funds available for state set-aside awards and state administration
- ARPA ESSER III requires 20% of divisions' formula funds be reserved to address learning loss
- School divisions filed funding applications with VDOE outlining their use of ESSER funding. Plans are revised when significant spending changes are proposed and approved by VDOE (e.g., facilities upgrades)
- Divisions' ESSER III spending plans were updated in December 2022. VDOE has posted links to the divisions' websites where the plans are available



# EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS (EANS) FUNDS

- EANS I and II funds provided to states under two federal acts: CRRSA and ARPA
- Funds used to provide COVID-19 support to eligible non-public schools that applied to participate; much shorter window to use these funds than ESSER funds
- Funds that were not requested or used to support non-public schools reverted last fall to the Governor for allowable uses under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) program

# ESSER AND EANS FUNDING OVERVIEW

- The next few slides provide updates on expenditures of ESSER and EANS funds, including ESSER LEA formula funds and VDOE expenditures of ESSER state set-aside funds awarded to LEAs and VDOE-directed projects. State set-aside detail is shown in the Appendix
- Reimbursement/expenditure information is as of May 1
- Divisions and other entities may have obligated their ESSER funds (e.g., PO's, contracts, payroll, etc.) and/or spent them, but have not yet filed for reimbursement with VDOE
- Divisions may file for reimbursement on a weekly cycle using VDOE's online grant management system
- After each September 30th obligation deadline for ESSER and EANS funds, final reimbursements are processed by VDOE by December 31 each year and liquidated by late January

# ESSER LEA FORMULA FUND SPENDING

*LEA formula reimbursements as of May 1, 2023*

	Awarded to LEAs	Expended/ Reimbursed	Balance	Percent Remaining
ESSER I	\$214,739,273	\$214,463,369	\$275,904	0.1%
ESSER II	\$845,352,520	\$608,706,693	\$236,645,827	28%
ESSER III	\$1,899,890,002	\$651,419,519	\$1,248,470,483	66%
TOTALS	\$2,959,981,795	\$1,474,589,581	\$1,485,392,214	50%

# ESSER STATE SET-ASIDE SPENDING - *LEA AWARDS & VDOE PROJECTS*

*Expenditures as of May 1, 2023; of the \$328.9M awarded, \$190.6M is awarded directly to LEAs; see Appendix for project line-item detail*

	Awarded/ Budgeted	Expended/ Reimbursed	Balance	Percent Remaining
ESSER I	\$23,859,919	\$23,652,270	\$207,786	0.9%
ESSER II	\$93,928,058	\$62,719,529	\$31,208,529	33%
ESSER III	\$211,098,889	\$41,413,964	\$169,684,925	80%
TOTALS	\$328,886,866	\$127,785,626	\$201,101,240	61%

# SCHOOL DIVISION-REPORTED SPENT, OBLIGATED, AND REMAINING ESSER II & III FORMULA FUNDS & CSLFRF FUNDS FOR HVAC GRANTS

*\*Data in red collected per Chapter 2 requirement: ESSER III data from Dec. '22-Jan. '23; ESSER II and HVAC data from March-April '23*

	Awarded/ Budgeted	(Reimbursed to date by VDOE-May '23)	<i>Divisions Reported Spent</i>	<i>Divisions Reported Obligated</i>	<i>Divisions Reported Remaining Balance</i>
HVAC (CSLFRF)	\$218,176,286	\$44,560,664	\$47,134,348	\$76,683,724	\$94,358,214
ESSER II Formula	\$845,352,520	\$608,706,693	\$657,915,706	\$80,148,889	\$107,287,925
ESSER III Formula	\$1,899,890,002	\$651,419,519	\$591,458,061	\$557,249,560	\$751,182,381

# EANS I AND II FUNDS (INCL. BALANCE REVERTED FOR GEER USES)

	Award	Reserved for Administration	Expended/Obligated for Services for Participating Non-Public Schools	<u>Balance Reverted for GEER Uses</u>
EANS I (use through 9/30/23)	\$46,618,019	\$233,090	\$18,023,420	\$28,361,509
EANS II (use through 9/30/24)	\$46,344,360	\$231,722	\$6,260,141	\$39,852,497

## Planned uses of funds reverted for GEER Purposes:

- \$28.4M EANS I and \$39.9M EANS II available for **K-12 Learning Acceleration Grants** - \$3,000/\$1,500 grants per student for tutoring, specialized educational services & therapies, and assistive technology (\$750 limit). \$30M to be initially awarded with ongoing program participation monitored

# STATUS OF K-12 LEARNING ACCELERATION GRANTS

- Eligibility: any public, private, or home-school child in grades K-12 residing in Virginia who meets school-age requirements; 300% or below FPL for \$3,000 grant
- Tutor/other provider application portal opened 4/12, parent application portal opened 5/1, and the online payment platform (ClassWallet) launched for parent access on 5/10
- Families must activate their account within 14 days of the grant award and begin expending grant funds within 30 days, or funds will be reallocated. At least \$750 must be spent by 8/15, with subsequent quarterly spending deadlines
- As of 5/15:
  - 552 service providers have been approved, with approx. 80% being individual providers vs. business entities/nonprofits and over 75% being tutors vs. other service providers
  - 6,763 students have applied for the \$1,500 grant, with 2,082 approved
  - 2,514 students have applied for the \$3,000 income-qualified grant, with 156 approved (income verification process required)
  - Cost of submitted applications is \$17.7M and \$3.6M for approved grants; services to students have begun

# **CALCULATOR TOOL FORMULA ERROR**



# CALCULATOR TOOL FORMULA ERROR

- What occurred?
  - VDOE provides a spreadsheet calculator (the “Calc. Tool”) for school divisions to estimate their state Direct Aid funding at different points in the state budget process
  - There was an error in the initial Chapter 2 Calc. Tool which did not include divisions’ Grocery Tax Hold Harmless amount in the “offset” or deduct in the Basic Aid formula, as required by Chapter 2, resulting in higher than appropriated Basic Aid funding estimates to school divisions
  - Divisions’ state and local shares of Basic Aid were overstated on the Calc. Tool only. The calculations used for Basic Aid appropriations in the Chapter 2 budget and Governor’s introduced budget in December 2022 were correct
  - Calc. Tool error discovered by VDOE on January 23rd

# CALCULATOR TOOL FORMULA ERROR

- What communications/outreach occurred?
  - VDOE notified Governor's Office, DPB, House Appropriations, and Senate Finance and Appropriations staff within 1-2 days
  - Governor Youngkin's Feb. 1 letter to SFAC/HAC chairs (see Appendix)
  - Notified the state school superintendent's (VASS) and state school finance director's organizations the same week
  - Sent a memo to divisions on January 27th and included instructions for estimating the amount of the overstated state Basic Aid funding
  - On February 16<sup>th</sup>, released Calc. Tools for the respective Senate and House Direct Aid budget proposals with the correction to Basic Aid funding
  - Held virtual meetings with school superintendents and finance directors in the subsequent weeks for updates

# CALCULATOR TOOL FORMULA ERROR

- What corrective actions were taken by VDOE to avoid future errors?
  - Created several additional data validations/balancing cross-checks in the files used to create the Calc. Tool to ensure accurate calculations
  - Updated internal SOP's to reflect the new data validation checks as part of the Calc. Tool development and testing process

# APPENDIX

- **Detail on ESSER I, II, and III State Set-aside uses and balances as of May 1, '23 are on slides 21-23**
- **Governor Youngkin's Feb. 1 letter to SFAC and HAC chairs regarding Calc. Tool formula error is on slide 24**

# ESSER I STATE SET-ASIDE USES - LEA AWARDS & VDOE PROJECTS

ESSER I Set-Aside Uses of Funds (all funds awarded)	Award/ Budget	Expended/ Reimbursed	Balance as of May 1
<i>Awards to LEAs (includes spec. ed. services/supports, cleaning supplies/PPE, facilities upgrades, summer school, instructional delivery, mental health &amp; SEL supports, regional program grants)</i>	\$15,012,284	\$14,804,498	\$207,786
LASER Data Analytics Project	\$2,484,291	\$2,484,291	\$0
Virtual Virginia Content Expansion	\$2,810,000	\$2,810,000	\$0
VDOE Continuity of Operations, Translation of Resources, Technology Training and Instructional Access	\$670,017	\$670,017	\$0
SOL Remote and Local Growth Assessments	\$1,690,636	\$1,690,636	\$0
VDOE Administration	\$1,192,691	\$1,192,691	\$0
TOTALS	\$23,859,919	\$23,652,133	\$207,786

## ESSER II STATE SET-ASIDE USES - LEA AWARDS & VDOE PROJECTS

ESSER II Set-Aside Uses of Funds (all funds awarded)	Budget	Expended/ Reimbursed	Balance as of May 1
<u>Awards to LEAs</u> ( <i>extended school year, *addressing learning loss, bus driver incentives, *add. yr. HS for spec. ed., early childhood provisional teachers</i> )	\$58,333,666	\$39,236,609	\$19,097,057
LASER Data Analytics Project	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$0
Virtual Virginia (content expansion and LMS)	\$14,355,671	\$7,934,079	\$6,421,592
*SOL Through Year Growth Assessments	\$8,750,000	\$8,750,000	\$0
Social Emotional Learning Supports	\$500,000	\$204,028	\$295,972
Exec. Directive #3 - Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Principal Support	\$1,091,000	\$1,091,000	\$0
Library of VA Homework HelpNow, YMCA Partnership for Petersburg (Before/After School Care), Urban League/HBCU Partnership (Tutoring)	\$1,485,237	\$346,520	\$1,138,717
Bridging the Gap - Student Success Report	\$4,220,857	\$2,487,387	\$1,733,470
VDOE Continuity of Operations	\$848,708	\$315,665	\$533,043
VDOE Administration	\$4,042,919	\$2,054,241	\$1,988,678
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$93,928,058</b>	<b>\$62,719,529</b>	<b>\$31,208,529</b>

*\*General Assembly Directed Use*

# ESSER III STATE SET-ASIDE USES - LEA AWARDS & VDOE PROJECTS

ESSER III Set-Aside Uses of Funds	Budget	Expended/ Reimbursed	Balance as of May 1
<u>Awards to LEAs</u> (address learning loss, before/after school, summer school, *teacher recruitment/retention, *additional yr. HS for spec. ed., early childhood provisional license)	\$116,730,508	\$32,150,718	\$84,579,790
LASER Data Analytics Project	\$5,537,269	\$1,006,704	\$4,530,565
SOL Through Year Growth Assessments and SOL Assessments Development	\$21,500,000	\$4,459,841	\$17,040,159
Virginia Tiered Systems of Support (VTSS)	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000
VLA implementation and Bridging the Gap - Reading Intervention and Coaching Support	\$1,232,000	\$0	\$1,232,000
Bridging the Gap - Student Success Report	\$4,448,804	\$5,082	\$4,443,722
Bridging the Gap - School Division and Teacher Stipends and Teacher Training	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
Exec. Directive #3 - Teacher Recruitment & Retention and Principal Support Statewide Initiatives	\$14,896,158	\$2,866,560	\$12,029,598
Teacher residencies and apprenticeships	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
Child Care for Teachers	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000
Instructional and Office of School Quality Staffing	\$2,800,000	\$30,854	\$2,769,146
PALS, VKRP Expansion and Integration	\$8,729,183	\$841,150	\$7,888,033
YMCA & Community in Schools Partnerships for Petersburg, Urban League/HBCU Partnership (Tutoring)	\$2,424,770	\$12,707	\$2,412,063
Support to parents of students with disabilities for systems navigation	\$1,450,000	\$0	\$1,450,000
Statewide Tutoring Program for Reading and Math	\$18,328,587	\$0	\$18,328,587
Intensive Supports for School Improvement	\$1,267,000	\$0	\$1,267,000
VDOE Administration	\$4,754,610	\$40,348	\$4,714,262
TOTALS	\$211,098,889	\$41,413,964	\$169,684,925

*\*General Assembly Directed Use*



*COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA*

*Office of the Governor*

Glenn Youngkin  
Governor

February 1, 2023

The Honorable Janet D. Howell  
Pocahontas Building, Room E509

The Honorable George L. Barker  
Pocahontas Building, Room E619

The Honorable Barry D. Knight  
Pocahontas Building, Room W1312

Dear Senator Howell, Senator Barker and Delegate Knight,

As you know, earlier this week it came to light that the Virginia Department of Education made a mathematical error in the formula projections to local K-12 school divisions. Due to the error with the calculator tool, school divisions are in a current budget cycle based on assumptions that overstated the appropriated state aid. I am working with the Department of Education to ensure this mistake will not happen again.

This situation is frustrating for us all and even more so that it came to light after I submitted my proposed budget. I am requesting that as you finalize your budget amendments this week that you include the necessary resources to address this error. I am confident that when you consider the continued outperformance of the Commonwealth's collections, the most up to date K-12 funding resource projections, and sales tax projections, as well as other surpluses, this resource gap can be filled.

We came together last year to secure record investments for K-12 education, and we have the opportunity to continue that momentum in the coming weeks. We all agree that this is a critical matter and I look forward to working with you all on this and our other budget priorities.

Sincerely,



Glenn Youngkin