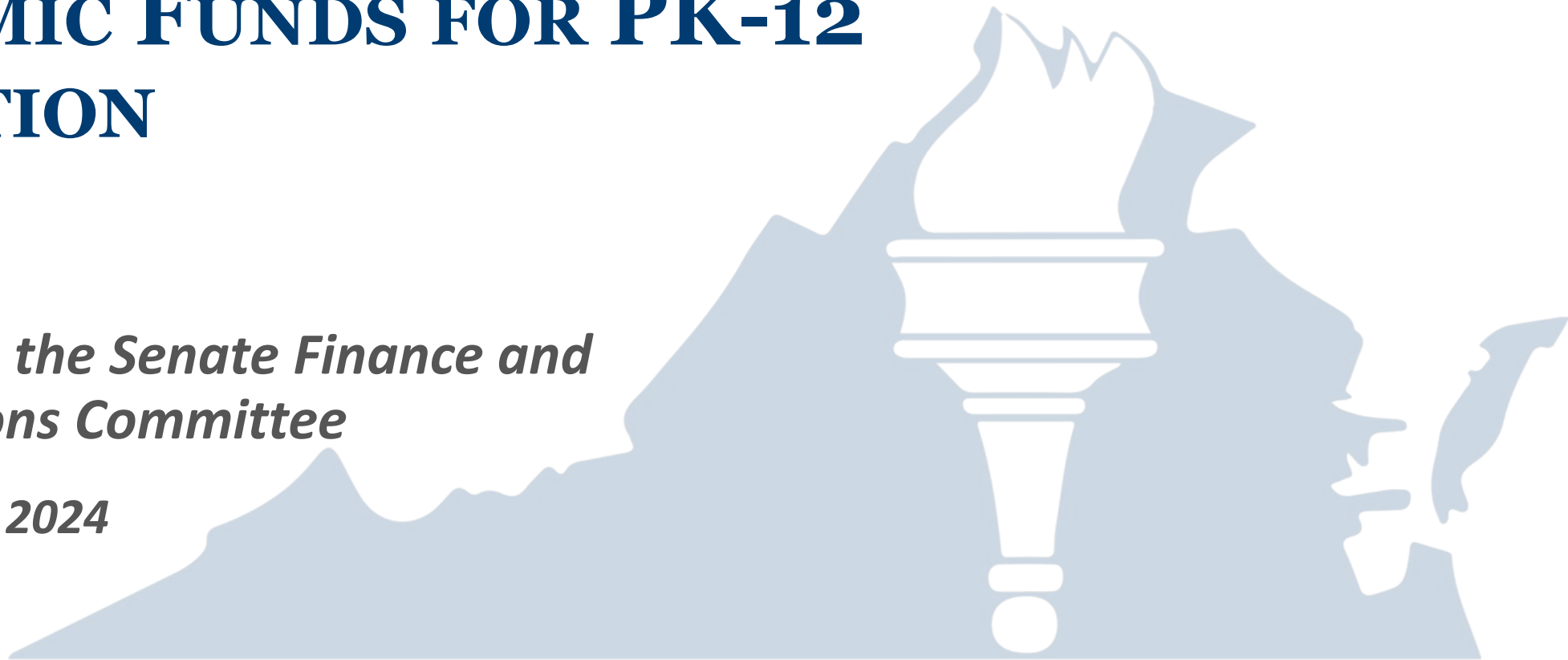


UPDATE ON FEDERAL PANDEMIC FUNDS FOR PK-12 EDUCATION

*Presented to the Senate Finance and
Appropriations Committee*

September 17, 2024



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THREE SOURCES OF ONE-TIME FEDERAL PANDEMIC FUNDS FOR PK-12

1. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds:
 - ESSER I (closed out),
 - ESSER II (closed out), and
 - ESSER III.
2. Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) Funds:
 - EANS I (closed) and EANS II
3. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery (CSLFRF) Funds (School HVAC/Ventilation Grants)

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSER) FUNDS

- ESSER I, II, & III funds provided to states under three separate federal acts: CARES, CRRSA, ARPA - ESSER I and II grants are closed
- 90% of ESSER funds are allocated to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs, or school divisions) based on each LEA's share under the Title I formula that uses U.S. Census childhood poverty and other factors
- 10% of funds available for state set aside awards and state administration
- Divisions may submit reimbursement requests weekly to VDOE

ESSER II OVERVIEW

- Deadline to obligate funds was 9/30/23 and deadline to draw-down funds was end of Jan. 2024
- ESSER II is now closed; all funds expended except \$856 in LEA formula funds
- Because ESSER II funds were made available earlier in the pandemic, many divisions used those funds for building sanitation, cleaning supplies and PPE, HVAC/air quality improvements, virtual learning, and preparing to reopen schools

ESSER III OVERVIEW

- ESSER III requires a minimum of **20% of division formula funds be reserved to address learning loss**
- School divisions submitted applications to VDOE outlining their use of ESSER III funding. Plans are revised when significant spending changes are proposed and approved by VDOE (e.g., facilities upgrades)
- With the late reopening of schools in Va., many divisions exceeded the 20% requirement in their spending plans with a focus on in-person activities accelerating student learning recovery

ESSER II vs. III USES OF FUNDS BY DIVISIONS (SEPT. 1 REPORT)

ESSER II More Frequent Uses by Divisions (Obligate funds by 9/30/23)	ESSER III More Frequent Uses by Divisions (Obligate funds by 9/30/24)
Sanitization/cleaning supplies/PPE	Tutoring, literacy instruction, and extended learning time
Technology devices, internet access, and virtual learning	In-person staffing: school nurses, custodians, reading specialists, student mental health, etc.
Additional student transportation costs	Staff development, recruitment, and retention
Hazard pay for staff	Instructional materials and supplies and school-based technology
HVAC improvements and building renovations	Family engagement and student attendance

ESSER III USE OF FUNDS TIMELINE

LEA Spending Plans Finalized

- Deadline: December 2022
- Links available on VDOE Website

Obligation Deadline

- Formal commitment to spend funds via contracts, POs, payroll, grant awards
- Deadline: September 30, 2024

Encumbrance Period

- Divisions pay grant expenses from local funds to be submitted to VDOE for reimbursement up to 120 days after obligation deadline.
- Deadline: December 31, 2024 to allow final draw down process

Draw Down

- VDOE draws grant funds down from USDOE used to pay division reimbursements
- Deadline: Jan. 28, 2025

ESSER III LATE LIQUIDATION

- States may request approval from USDOE for Late Liquidation of ESSER III funds past Jan. 2025
- VDOE is submitting a request to extend school divisions' use of funds and for state set aside funds to continue statewide Reading and Math Tutoring platforms through 2025-2026 and for Chronic Absenteeism data platform upgrades
- USDOE is emphasizing requests to extend use of ESSER III funds be for uses such as tutoring and extended learning time

VDOE OUTREACH ACTIVITY TO DIVISIONS

VDOE Spend Down Reminders to School Divisions		
Emails to division supts. and staff	January to June	Monthly spend down reminders
Emails + direct calls to division supts. and staff	June to September	Weekly spend down reminders
Emails + direct calls to division supts. and staff	Began September 10	Daily Spend down reminders

**Divisions can also monitor their award balances using the VDOE grants system and the public-facing ESSER data dashboard (went live Sept. '23). VDOE weekly newsletter also provides balance information and reminders on ESSER spend down.*

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS (EANS) FUNDS

- EANS I and II funds provided to states under two federal acts: CRRSA and ARPA
- Funds provide pandemic support to eligible non-public schools that applied to participate; much shorter window to use these funds than ESSER funds
- Funds that were not used to support non-public schools reverted in fall 2022 to the Governor for allowable uses under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) program

USE OF EANS FUNDS FOR K-12 FAMILY GRANT TUTORING PROGRAM

Quick Program Statistics

Virginia K-12 Learning Acceleration Grants Final Data Report (June 3, 2024)

Grant Amounts Awarded to Students

Awarded Grant	Number of Students	Awarded Amount
Student without Economic Need	168,165 Students	\$30,020,836.33
Student with Economic Need	223,181 Students	\$39,795,062.11
Total	391,546 Students	\$69,815,898.44

Total Grant Funds Spent and Remaining

Total Grant Funds	Amount
Total Grant Funds Spent	\$69,815,898.44
Total Grant Funds Remain	\$0.00

ESSER & HVAC EXPENDITURE UPDATES

- Updated expenditures of LEA and state set aside funds as of 9/13/24 are shown on the next few slides
- Divisions and other entities may have ESSER III and HVAC funds obligated and/or spent them, but have not yet sent reimbursement requests to VDOE or reimbursements are pending in VDOE's grant system

ESSER LEA FORMULA FUNDS

**LEA formula reimbursements as of 9/13/24*

	Awarded to LEAs	Expended/ Reimbursed	Remaining Balance	Percent Remaining
ESSER I (closed out Jan. '23)	\$214,739,273	\$214,463,369	\$275,904	0.1%
ESSER II (closed out Jan. '24)	\$845,352,520	\$845,351,664	\$856	0%
ESSER III	\$1,899,890,002	\$1,630,062,195	\$269,827,807	14.2%
TOTALS	\$2,959,981,795	\$2,689,877,228	\$270,104,567	9.1%

DAILY ESSER III & HVAC REIMBURSEMENTS

- Division reimbursement requests recently received by VDOE over three days (9/11/24 to 9/13/24) totaled \$21.4M:

ESSER Program	9/11/2024	9/12/2024	9/13/2024	Grand Total
ESSER III Formula	3,042,888	5,782,220	9,845,744	18,670,852
ESSER III Set Aside Grants	473,384	1,017,578	860,331	2,351,293
HVAC Grants	0	345,345	0	345,345
Grand Total =	3,516,272	7,145,144	10,706,075	21,367,490

ESSER STATE SET ASIDE FUNDS - *LEA AWARDS & VDOE PROJECTS*

**Expenditures as of 9/13/24*

	Amount Awarded	Expended/ Reimbursed as of 9/13/24	Balance Remaining	Percent Remaining
ESSER I (closed out Jan. '23)	\$23,859,919	\$23,652,133	\$207,786	0.9%
ESSER II (closed out Jan. '24)	\$93,928,058	\$93,928,058	\$0	0%
ESSER III (oblig. by 9/30/24; closed Jan. '25)	\$211,098,889	\$149,781,071	\$61,317,818	29.0%
TOTALS	\$328,886,866	\$267,361,262	\$61,525,604	18.7%

EXAMPLES OF ESSER III STATE SET ASIDE PROJECTS

1. Statewide math and reading tutoring platforms (Zearn, Lexia, and Ignite)
2. \$64M in additional Unfinished Learning grants to school divisions
3. Summer and Before/After School grants (required 1% set aside use for both)
4. Over \$1.5M in grants supporting Petersburg Urban League, YMCA, and Communities in Schools programming
5. Teacher Recruitment/Retention including apprenticeships and Grow Your Own school division grants
6. Expansion of legislative assessment additions including the Virginia Growth Assessment and an updated Virginia Literacy Screener

LEA-REPORTED SPENT AND OBLIGATED ESSER III FORMULA FUNDS; UNREIMBURSED BALANCES OF ESSER II & CSLFRF HVAC GRANTS

**Data in red collected for ESSER III as of 6/30/24 per Chapter 1, Item 137 B.31. (Sept. 1 reporting requirement letter)*

	Amount Awarded	(Expended/ Reimbursed as of 9/13/24)	Divisions Reported Spent as of 6/30/24	Divisions Reported Obligated as of 6/30/24	Remaining Balance
HVAC Grant (CSLFRF)	\$218,176,186	\$150,983,828	N/A	N/A	\$67,192,358
ESSER II Formula (closed out)	\$845,352,520	\$845,351,664	N/A	N/A	\$856
ESSER III Formula	\$1,899,890,002	\$1,630,062,195	\$1,659,853,626	\$166,609,611	\$73,426,765

IN CONCLUSION

1. Virginia is on track for meeting state obligations.
2. Local funding obligations are still being processed through the federal reimbursement process.
3. The state and some local school divisions are applying for late liquidation to extend dollars for statewide tutoring platforms and chronic absenteeism data platform upgrades (as recommended by USDOE).