

To: Joint Education Committee

From: Shelley Hamel, Chief Academic Officer

Date: July 19-20, 2021

Subject: ESSER Award Amounts and Intended SEA Uses

Background

All three federal COVID-19 relief packages have included Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Wyoming was granted \$32,562,651 in ESSER I funds, \$135,230,900 in ESSER II funds, and \$303,779,377 in ARP ESSER funds. This memo provides information on:

- District award amounts.
- Intended uses of funds reserved by the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE).

District Award Amounts

Each COVID-19 relief package requires State Education Agencies (SEAs), such as the WDE, to subgrant 90 percent of the state allocation to Local Education Agencies (LEAs), such as school districts. The total amount of ESSER I funds subgranted directly to Wyoming school districts is \$29,306,386 with district allocations based on the proportion of funds each district received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 for fiscal year 2019. The total amount of ESSER II funds subgranted directly to Wyoming LEAs is \$121,707,810 and ARP ESSER funds to be subgranted directly to Wyoming LEAs is \$273,401,439. The specific amount received by each district for ESSER II and ARP ESSER is based on the proportion of funds each district received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in the most recent fiscal year. The specific award amounts and proportions are in Attachment A.

Generally, school districts must use ESSER funds to address needs arising from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are no response or program specific requirements for districts when using the ESSER I or ESSER II awards. Allowable uses of the ARP ESSER funds by school districts is found in section 2001(e) of the ARP Act and includes all of the allowable uses of funds listed in any of the ESSER programs from the first two federal COVID-19 relief bills. Notably, section 2001(e)(1) requires districts to use at least 20 percent of ARP ESSER funds to address the academic impact of

lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions. The U.S. Department of Education (USED) provided a consolidated list of allowable uses and guidance on evidence-based interventions in an [FAQ](#) released on May 26, 2021.

Additionally, the FAQ directly answers the question, “May an SEA or a State legislature limit an LEA’s use of ESSER formula funds?” on page 15, question A-6. The answer provided is:

“No. Section 18003(d) of the CARES Act, section 313(d) of the CRRSA Act, and section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act permit an LEA to use ESSER funds for a broad range of allowable activities. Each section authorizes an LEA to use ESSER funds “for any of the following” activities. Accordingly, neither an SEA nor a State legislature has the authority to limit an LEA’s use of ESSER formula funds. An SEA may require LEAs to include information in their applications about how they intend to use the funds, consistent with the SEA’s regular practices or State law, as long as it does not limit how the LEAs use their funds.”

Intended Uses of Funds Reserved by the WDE

Each COVID-19 relief package allows state education agencies to reserve up to 10 percent of the funds granted to the state. For Wyoming, ESSER I and ESSER II amounts are \$3,256,265 and \$13,523,090, respectively.

ESSER I SEA Reserve funds were used to support districts in formative assessment and progress monitoring of student performance in light of interrupted learning due to COVID, professional development in the area of literacy instruction, best practices in building cleanliness through the Wyoming Custodian’s Conference, and extended learning opportunities. The WDE provided 68% of the SEA Reserve to districts through a competitive grant opportunity.

ESSER II SEA Reserve funds are initially targeted at providing high quality after-school opportunities to students on Wyoming reservations, strengthening the quality of virtual education offerings, improving educational practices through the understanding and use of student data, and increasing the health of students and educational staff through Social, Emotional, and Mental Health initiatives.

Of ARP ESSER funds granted to the state, \$30,377,938 can be reserved. These reserved ARP ESSER funds have required areas of use as noted below.

A [fact sheet](#) release by USED on March 17, 2021 contains the following guidance on the required reservations:

“The ARP ESSER Fund includes three State-level reservations for activities and interventions that respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact

of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups, including each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care:

- *5 percent of the total ARP ESSER allocation for the implementation of evidence-based interventions aimed specifically at addressing learning loss, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs.*
- *1 percent of the total ARP ESSER allocation for evidence-based summer enrichment programs.*
- *1 percent of the total ARP ESSER allocation for evidence-based comprehensive afterschool programs.”*

The WDE plans to make these funds available to districts through competitive grants. The remaining 2.5%, not including the funds identified for administration of the grant, will be used for additional district and community competitive grant opportunities in the areas of innovation and civics.

Wyoming was one of 28 states to submit its draft of the required State Plan for ARP ESSER funds on June 7, 2021. The plan is available [here](#) and public comment is currently being collected [here](#).

Attachment A

ESSER Award Amounts

School District	ESSER I Award Amounts	ESSER II Award Amounts	ARP ESSER Award Amounts	2020-2021 Title IA Allocation Proportion
Albany #1	\$ 1,236,729.48	\$ 4,880,483.18	\$ 10,963,397.72	0.04010%
Big Horn #1	\$ 211,005.98	\$ 921,328.12	\$ 2,069,648.90	0.00757%
Big Horn #2	\$ 231,520.45	\$ 905,506.11	\$ 2,034,106.71	0.00744%
Big Horn #3	\$ 213,936.62	\$ 1,170,829.13	\$ 2,630,121.85	0.00962%
Big Horn #4	\$ 108,433.63	\$ 634,097.69	\$ 1,424,421.50	0.00521%
Campbell #1	\$ 2,083,684.04	\$ 8,827,467.46	\$ 19,829,806.39	0.07253%
Carbon #1	\$ 753,174.12	\$ 3,183,876.31	\$ 7,152,181.65	0.02616%
Carbon #2	\$ 134,809.38	\$ 499,002.02	\$ 1,120,945.90	0.00410%
Converse #1	\$ 398,566.85	\$ 1,858,478.26	\$ 4,174,839.98	0.01527%
Converse #2	\$ 205,144.70	\$ 714,424.84	\$ 1,604,866.45	0.00587%
Crook #1	\$ 263,757.47	\$ 1,391,120.27	\$ 3,124,978.45	0.01143%
Fremont #1	\$ 835,232.00	\$ 2,834,574.89	\$ 6,367,519.52	0.02329%
Fremont #2	\$ 93,780.43	\$ 725,378.55	\$ 1,629,472.58	0.00596%
Fremont #6	\$ 225,659.17	\$ 894,552.40	\$ 2,009,500.58	0.00735%
Fremont #14	\$ 337,023.44	\$ 1,411,810.60	\$ 3,171,456.70	0.01160%
Fremont #21	\$ 606,642.19	\$ 2,690,959.68	\$ 6,044,905.82	0.02211%
Fremont #24	\$ 128,948.10	\$ 458,838.44	\$ 1,030,723.43	0.00377%
Fremont #25	\$ 1,685,117.19	\$ 7,538,581.75	\$ 16,934,485.15	0.06194%
Fremont #38	\$ 360,468.55	\$ 1,423,981.38	\$ 3,198,796.84	0.01170%
Goshen #1	\$ 729,729.01	\$ 3,256,901.00	\$ 7,316,222.52	0.02676%
Hot Springs #1	\$ 366,329.82	\$ 1,434,935.08	\$ 3,223,402.97	0.01179%
Johnson #1	\$ 339,954.08	\$ 1,607,760.17	\$ 3,611,633.01	0.01321%
Laramie #1	\$ 4,598,171.95	\$ 19,095,955.39	\$ 42,889,685.83	0.15690%
Laramie #2	\$ 240,312.36	\$ 1,140,402.18	\$ 2,561,771.49	0.00937%
Lincoln #1	\$ 73,265.96	\$ 337,130.63	\$ 757,321.99	0.00277%
Lincoln #2	\$ 635,948.57	\$ 2,514,483.35	\$ 5,648,473.74	0.02066%
Natrona #1	\$ 4,325,622.56	\$ 17,061,000.81	\$ 38,325,413.76	0.14018%
Niobrara #1	\$ 137,740.01	\$ 547,685.15	\$ 1,230,306.48	0.00450%
Park #1	\$ 556,821.33	\$ 2,199,260.13	\$ 4,940,364.01	0.01807%
Park #6	\$ 627,156.66	\$ 2,661,749.80	\$ 5,979,289.48	0.02187%
Park #16	\$ 20,514.47	\$ 111,971.19	\$ 251,529.32	0.00092%
Platte #1	\$ 369,260.46	\$ 1,458,059.56	\$ 3,275,349.24	0.01198%
Platte #2	\$ 175,838.32	\$ 1,349,739.61	\$ 3,032,021.96	0.01109%
Sheridan #1	\$ 114,294.91	\$ 509,955.72	\$ 1,145,552.03	0.00419%
Sheridan #2	\$ 1,040,376.70	\$ 3,792,415.36	\$ 8,519,188.85	0.03116%
Sheridan #3	\$ 0.00	\$ 176,476.32	\$ 396,432.09	0.00145%
Sublette #1	\$ 193,422.15	\$ 767,976.28	\$ 1,725,163.08	0.00631%
Sublette #9	\$ 99,641.71	\$ 385,813.76	\$ 866,682.56	0.00317%
Sweetwater #1	\$ 1,603,059.31	\$ 6,323,937.81	\$ 14,205,938.79	0.05196%
Sweetwater #2	\$ 638,879.21	\$ 2,518,134.59	\$ 5,656,675.78	0.02069%
Teton #1	\$ 442,526.43	\$ 1,739,204.60	\$ 3,906,906.57	0.01429%
Uinta #1	\$ 893,844.77	\$ 3,530,743.57	\$ 7,931,375.75	0.02901%
Uinta #4	\$ 114,294.91	\$ 475,877.54	\$ 1,068,999.63	0.00391%
Uinta #6	\$ 38,098.30	\$ 138,746.90	\$ 311,677.64	0.00114%
Washakie #1	\$ 448,387.70	\$ 1,769,631.56	\$ 3,975,256.93	0.01454%
Washakie #2	\$ 5,861.28	\$ 19,473.25	\$ 43,744.23	0.00016%
Weston #1	\$ 337,023.44	\$ 1,669,831.15	\$ 3,751,067.75	0.01372%
Weston #7	\$ 26,375.75	\$ 147,266.45	\$ 330,815.74	0.00121%
Allocations Total	\$ 29,306,385.90	\$ 121,707,810.00	\$ 273,401,439.30	1.00000%