

# 8/12/2021 Office Hours - Webinar Questions

## Reporting

1. **Will the US Department of Education be reviewing SAU plans, or will these efforts be reviewed by Maine DOE Staff?**
  - a. In the ARP ESSER Application, the SAU will provide links to the ARP ESSER Application (use of funds plan) and the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service plan. The Office of Federal Emergency Relief Programs (OFERP) team will be reviewing the ARP ESSER Application to confirm the use of funds plans and safe return to in-person and continuity of service plans are publicly available. During the monitoring process, the US Department of Education and/or the Maine Department of Education may request documentation related to the plans.
  
2. **Is a requirement to track multiple funding streams?**
  - a. No, tracking is not a requirement. The SAU may find tracking multiple funding streams for similar projects helpful. The Office of Federal Emergency Relief Programs (OFERP) team is reading all federal emergency relief applications and has the ability to track categories (e.g. HVAC, purchases of vehicles, curricular materials, devices) of projects across funding streams.

**Example-Ventilation Project(s):**

<i>Funding Source</i>	<i>Project/Activity</i>
<i>CFR 2</i>	<i>Air Purifiers for K-5 classrooms</i>
<i>ESSER II</i>	<i>Air Purifiers for 6-8 classrooms</i>
<i>ESSER III</i>	<i>Air Purifiers for 9-12 classrooms</i>

## Application

3. **Summer school in 2021 is a project that the SAU hoped to designate funds, is it fair to assume that our GAN gives us permission to commit funds?**
  - a. Yes. An SAU may begin obligating ARP ESSER funds once they submit their ARP ESSER application, part I and received their Grant Award Notification (GAN). APR ESSER is unusual in that SAUs are permitted to obligate upon completion of part 1 of the ARP ESSER application. SAUs take a risk, however, when they obligate funds without having an approved application. Please note that the SAU will only be reimbursed for approved projects and budgets that were deemed allowable, necessary, and reasonable within part 2 of the application. Allowable uses are discussed [here](#) (A.3 on page 11 ) and listed in the application.

The following is language from the allowable uses for summer programming:  
*Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and enrichment and supplemental after-school programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income*

*students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.*

**4. What is the start date to use ARP ESSER funds? In other words, how far can we go back?**

- a. The period of allowability for ARP ESSER funds is March 13, 2020 to September 30, 2024. This includes the 12-month Tydings Amendment waiver.

**5. Are SAUs required to budget funds to address all 5 points in the plan (SAU plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services)?**

- a. No. The five pieces are related to SAUs Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services plans. The Interim Final Requirements (IFR) states that an SAU must describe in their plan how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff. Also, the extent to which it has adopted the key prevention and mitigation strategies identified in the CDC guidance including addressing the areas listed in A-I (listed below). There is no fiscal obligation or requirement to fund this plan with ARP ESSER funds. An SAU's plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services must describe (language from ARP ESSERF Application provided below):

*How it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:*

- A. *Universal and correct wearing of masks.*
- B. *Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).*
- C. *Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.*
- D. *Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.*
- E. *Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.*
- F. *Diagnostic and screening testing.*
- G. *Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.*
- H. *Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.*
- I. *Coordination with State and local health officials.*

**6. These requirements (targeting specific student groups and grade levels) are only for the 20% (Reservation) projects correct?**

- a. Yes, selecting and targeting specific student groups that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic is only required on the ARP ESSER Application for the 20% Reservation. Students disproportionately impacted might include students from low-income families, students of color, English Learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

It should be noted that all ARP ESSER funds must be used for their intended purpose: 1) to implement COVID 19 prevention and mitigation strategies and 2) to address the academic impacts of lost instructional time through evidence-based interventions that respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students and particularly underserved student groups.

## Technical Assistance

**7. When will the slides be available?**

- a. We try to get the slides out as soon as we can after the session.

**8. Would you please consider providing the slide deck (maybe a link in the chat), so participants could have access during the presentation?**

- a. Slides will be on our OFERP page: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19/fedrelief>. Select ESSER, then find General Information, and look for **Office Hours** by date. The chat questions, video recordings, and slides will be available by the Office Hour date.

## Resources

Return to School ROADMAP:

[https://sites.ed.gov/roadmap/?utm\\_content&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term](https://sites.ed.gov/roadmap/?utm_content&utm_medium=email&utm_name&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term)

Improving Ventilation: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus/improving-ventilation>

ARP Law: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>

ARP IFR: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/04/22/2021-08359/american-rescue-plan-act-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund>

US OESE ARP ESSER:

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/american-rescue-plan/american-rescue-plan-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief/>

ESSER and GEER FAQ (US

ED): [https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER\\_FAQs\\_5.26.21\\_745AM\\_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf)

Maine's ARP Application

Instructions: [https://s3.amazonaws.com/4pca/ARP/ARP\\_APP\\_manual\\_2021.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/4pca/ARP/ARP_APP_manual_2021.pdf)

Maine's Federal Emergency Relief Programs: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19/fedrelief>