

Legislative Interim Committee on School Finance

# Federal COVID Recovery Funding for Education Update

August 24, 2021

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# Today's Purpose and Agenda

## PURPOSE

To provide an update on Federal funds that have been allocated to Colorado school districts to assist with COVID response and recovery.

## AGENDA

- Overview of funding
- Allocations
- Uses of funds
- Questions

# Overview of Federal Funding

# ESSER Funds

## Overall Purpose of All ESSER Funds

To address the impact that COVID-19 has had on education

## Priorities of Each ESSER Funding Stream

- **CARES Act: ESSER I – Crisis Response**

- To provide schools, staff and students with the *technology and infrastructure to accommodate remote learning environments* caused by COVID-19.

- **CRRS Act: ESSER II – Resuming/Sustaining In-Person Instruction**

- To provide schools staff and students with the resources and equipment to *safely return to in-person learning environments* for students.

- **ARP Act: ESSER III – Recovery**

- To support schools, educators and students with resources and programming that *address learning loss* caused by COVID 19 and remote learning environments.

# Total ESSER Funding

	<b>ESSER I (CARES Act) March 2020</b>	<b>ESSER II (CRRS Act) December 2020</b>	<b>ESSER III (ARP Act) March 2021</b>
<b>Total State Allocation</b>	\$120,993,782	\$519,324,311	\$1,167,153,961
<b>Allocation to LEAs</b>	\$108,894,404 \$120.81 per pupil 90% of total funding Title I formula	\$467,391,880 \$518.70 per pupil 90% of total funding Title I formula	\$1,050,438,565 \$1,164.93 per pupil 90% of total funding Title I formula
<b>State Reserve</b>	\$12,099,378 10% of total funding (0.5% for admin)	\$51,932,431 10% of total funding (0.5% for admin)	\$116,715,396 10% of total funding (0.5% for admin)
<b>Funding Period</b>	Through Sept. 30, 2022	Through Sept. 30, 2023	Through Sept. 30, 2024

# ESSER Funding Directly to Districts

**ESSER I:**  
**~\$109M**  
90% Allocation



- Applications due December 31, 2020
- Funds must be spent by **September 30, 2022**

**ESSER II:**  
**~\$467M**  
90% Allocation



- Applications due September 30, 2021
- Funds must be spent by **September 30, 2023**

**ESSER III:**  
**~\$1B**  
90% Allocation\*



- Initial applications due May 23, 2021
- Final application due March 24, 2022
- Funds must be spent by **September 30, 2024**

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\*At least 20% of ESSER III funding must be used to address the learning impacts of COVID-19 through interventions, summer programming, and after-school opportunities

# Additional Federal Funds for Education

Governor's  
Emergency  
Education  
Relief  
(~\$44M)

Included in  
the first  
stimulus bill

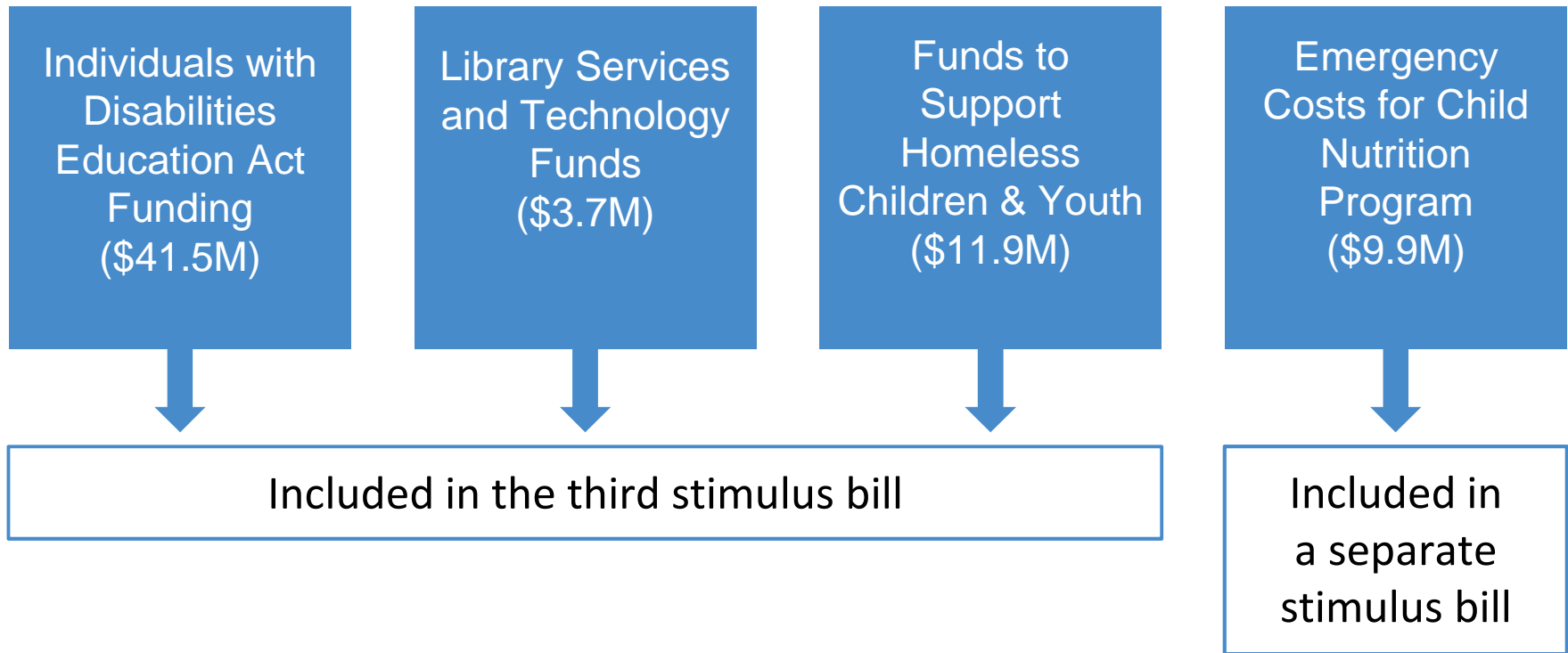
Coronavirus  
Relief Funds  
for Education  
(~\$550M)

Included in  
the first  
stimulus bill

Emergency  
Assistance for  
Non-Public  
Schools  
(~\$57M)

Funding available  
for non-public  
schools in the  
second and third  
stimulus bills

# Additional Federal Funds for Education





# Allocations

# Allocation Methodology

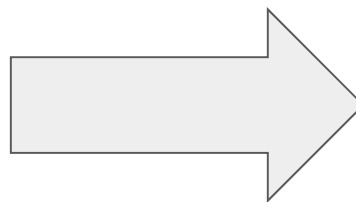
- Per Federal statute, the allocation of all **ESSER funds** followed the formula of allocation for Title I funds.
  - Districts that received little or no funding based upon the Title I allocation received distributions from ESSER state set-aside funds
- **Coronavirus Relief Funds** were distributed on a per-pupil basis that utilized factors from the school finance formula

## Total Allocations Snapshot

- Colorado school districts have received **\$2.17 billion** from the formula allocations of Federal COVID recovery funds (CRF & ESSER) to be spent for allowable uses between March 2020 and September 2024
  - *To put that in perspective, the total school finance (local and state share) allocation for 2021-2022 is projected to be \$7.99 billion*

- Total ESSER & CRF formula allocations range from:

**\$113,138** to  
Kim School District  
(50 funded pupils)

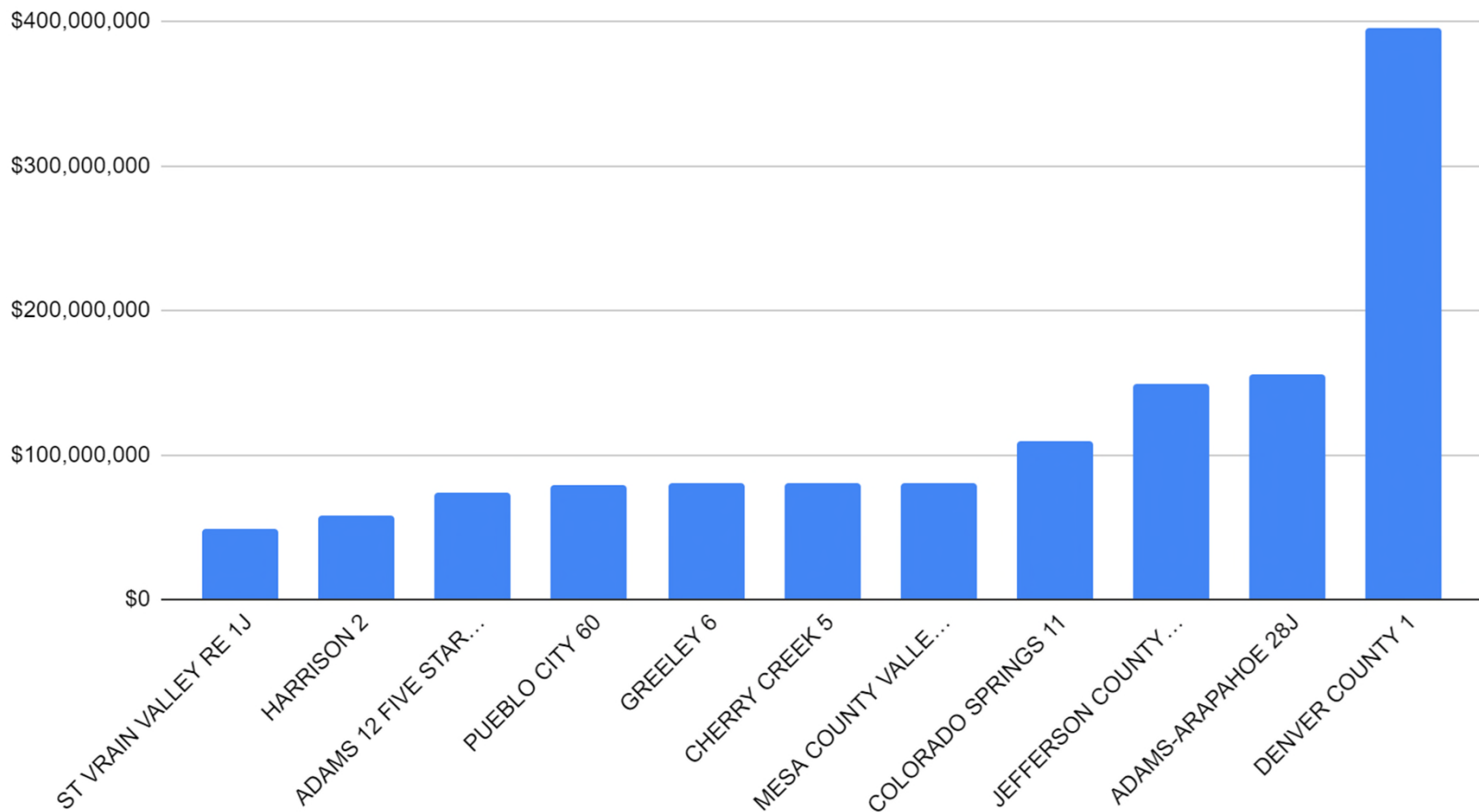


**\$395,482,816** to  
Denver Public Schools  
(89,785 funded pupils)

- The average district CRF & ESSER total allocation is **\$12.13 million**

# Ten Largest Total ESSER & CRF Allocations

Ten Largest Total Allocations (CRF & ESSER I, II, III)



# Uses of Funds

# Allowable Uses of District ESSER Funding

ESSER I	ESSER II	ESSER III
<p><b>Addressing the impact of COVID-19 on schools, such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Coordination with public health departments</li> <li>● Purchasing educational technology</li> <li>● Planning for long term closures</li> <li>● Training and supplies for sanitation</li> <li>● Mental health support</li> <li>● Summer school and afterschool programs</li> <li>● Funds for principals to address local needs</li> <li>● Other activities to continue school operations and employment of existing staff</li> </ul>	<p><b>Same as ESSER I with emphasis on:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Addressing learning loss</li> <li>● School facility repairs and improvements</li> <li>● Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of schools</li> </ul>	<p><b>Same as ESSER I with a requirement to direct at least 20% of funding to address the learning impacts of COVID-19 through interventions</b></p>

All ESSER funds may be used for activities allowable under ESEA, IDEA, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Perkins CTE Act, or the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, in response to COVID-19.



# Common Uses of ESSER Funds in Colorado

Purchasing **educational technology** for students and staff, including both software and hardware

**Remote learning supports** including electronic media curriculum

**Preparedness and response** activities and supplies, including PPE and sanitation

**Repairing/improving school facilities** to reduce health hazards including air-filtration and ventilation

**Mental health supports** for students, including counselors

**Instructional support** to counter learning loss, including curriculum purchases and intervention; tutoring; and intervention staff

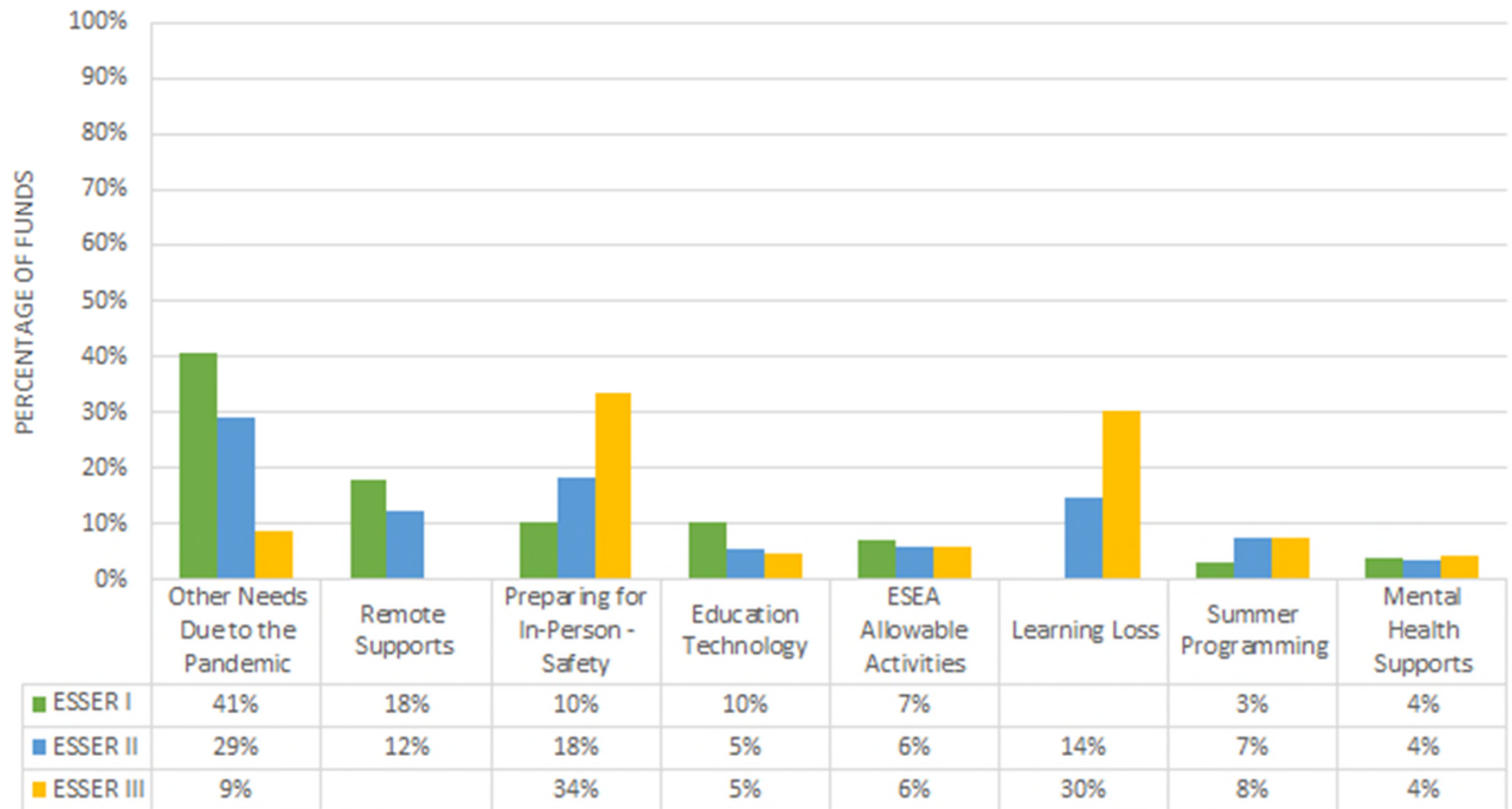
**Summer learning and supplemental after-school programs**

**Augmenting staff salaries** including extra duty pay or stipends for supplemental instructional time

**Other activities to maintain the operation and continuity of services** including hazard pay for teaching in-person and salaries to maintain staff

# Uses of ESSER Funds in Colorado to Date

## USES OF FUNDS (AS OF JULY 23, 2021)





# ESSER State Set Aside Funds (9.5%)

## ESSER I: \$11.5 Million

Funding Gap Support (~\$3.2 M)	Provide Broadband (~\$1.3 M)	Statewide Capacity Building (~\$5 M)	Expand Learning Opportunities (~\$2 M)
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## ESSER II: \$49.3 Million

Funding Gap Support (~\$16.8 M)	Other Allowable Activities (~\$21.4 M)*	Statewide Capacity Building (~\$650K)	Expand Learning Opportunities (~\$10.5 M)
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## ESSER III: \$110.8 Million

Evidenced-Based Interventions for Learning Loss (~\$58.3 M)*	Other Allowable Activities (~\$29.2 M)*	Summer Programming (~\$11.7 M)*	After School Programming (~\$11.7 M)*
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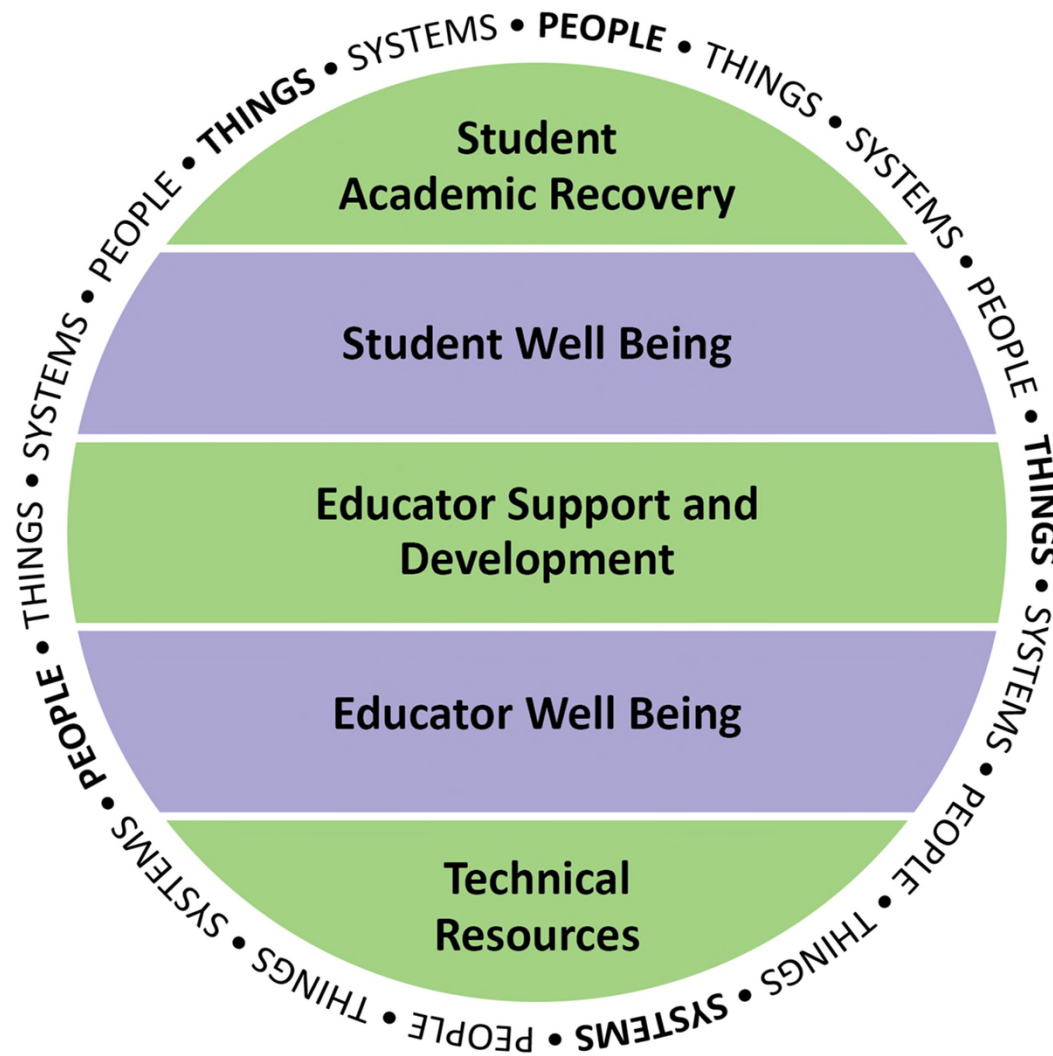
# ESSER III State Set-Aside Input Process

## **CDE contracted with Keystone Policy Group to conduct a community input process**

- Focus groups with parents, educators, students, community organizations, school leaders, district administrators, educator preparation programs and CDE staff
- Statewide survey
- Other input received, including a special listening session with legislators

**The process occurred during the month of July**

# ESSER III State Set-Aside Input Themes



# Questions?

