



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



May 9, 2021

Dear Superintendents,

We are pleased to share your allocations for formula funding pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ARP ESSER) along with our guidance document, Connecticut's ARP ESSER Guidance: Reimagining Schools to Transform Students' Lives.

Connecticut received \$1.1 billion in ARP ESSER funds, with 90 percent of these funds allocated to local education agencies (LEAs) using the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Title I allocation as baseline for distribution. The balance of the funding will remain with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) for state-level activities, including specific set-asides for learning recovery, summer enrichment programs, and afterschool programming.

Unlike the previous two federal relief funds, ARP ESSER requires state education agencies and LEAs to create plans that focus on renewal, reducing opportunity gaps, accelerating learning, and advancing equity for all students. Further information can be found in the attached guidance. In addition, the priorities outlined expand and refine the CSDE's ESSER II state-level priorities to reflect the collective call to action to think boldly and create meaningful change. To spark innovation, information is included regarding implementable initiatives and resources in Connecticut and nationwide that an LEA may wish to pursue or build upon. This unprecedented level of funding offers the state and LEAs, in partnership with community and education stakeholders, the opportunity to reimagine how we serve our students.

In addition to planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, we encourage LEAs to explore how they might take advantage of and/or leverage the summer initiatives put forth in Governor Lamont's [American Rescue Plan Act Proposal](#), including but not limited to [free access to Connecticut's museums](#) and high-quality summer enrichment.

We look forward to undertaking this work with you and providing necessary supports for success.

Sincerely,

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Acting Commissioner of Education