

Dear Superintendents,

On the evening of March 28, 2025, State Education Chiefs [received notification](#) from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) modifying the liquidation period of the American Rescue Plan, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) to end at 5 p.m. on March 28, 2025. This is a change from March 28, 2026, as was indicated by ED a month ago in its approval of Connecticut's liquidation extension that was received by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) on February 13, 2025. As indicated in the [approval letter](#) from ED, Connecticut was awarded a liquidation extension after a careful review of the justification and documentation submitted by CSDE as part of its request.

Though most Connecticut districts had fully expended their ARP ESSER funds by the standard 120-day liquidation period, and over 97 percent of the ARP ESSER funds have been fully expended, this end to the liquidation *extension* period could potentially affect approximately 25 school districts, as well as the CSDE and many of its partners/contractors.

As you know, the ARP ESSER funds have been instrumental in limiting the impact of the pandemic on student engagement and learning, while supporting evidence-based activities to accelerate recovery. The remaining funds are supporting activities to continue during the liquidation extension period and are designed to further mitigate the effects of the COVID pandemic on Connecticut students. Specifically, for the CSDE these activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- academically focused initiatives such as high-dosage tutoring, expansion of dual credit programming, scientifically-based reading instruction, mathematics professional learning, digital curriculum and online courses, and online digital curricula resources for project-based learning focused on college and career readiness;
- talent development initiatives including a Teacher-Leader-in-Residence to implement the Connecticut Troops to Teachers (CTTT) Program, an expanded recruitment campaign, and streamlining teacher certification regulations and processes;
- student support initiatives including efforts to reduce the number of youth interacting with the Juvenile Justice System, no-cost access to vision care for students from low-income families, school-based mentoring programs to reduce chronic absenteeism; and
- evaluation of completed activities through the Center for Connecticut Education Research Collaborative.

The CSDE has a meeting scheduled with the ED on Monday, March 31, and will discuss this matter. Please know that Connecticut will rigorously advocate for the continued liquidation extension authorization of each and every project that was previously approved by the ED. The CSDE will follow the instructions outlined in the ED's letter that require explaining (1) how a particular project's extension is necessary to mitigate the effects of COVID on American students' education, and (2) why the ED should exercise its discretion to grant the request.

More information will be shared early next week. Thank you for your continued partnership.



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Commissioner

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