

FACT SHEET

Kansas Public and Private School Use of Federal COVID-19 Funds

Onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic hit Kansas public and private schools in March 2020. In a matter of days, the teaching and learning of more than 500,000 Kansas youth were disrupted, along with 55 million students across the United States in 124,000 public and private schools. The federal government issued a series of three incremental funding programs to mediate the impact of this learning disruption.

Majority of funds used for learning recovery

Most of the federal funds awarded to Kansas have been used to address **Learning Recovery**, while the remaining portion were needed to provide a **Safe Learning Environment**.¹

Cumulative expenditures of \$915 million through September 2023.

73%

Learning Recovery

27%

Safe Learning Environment

Learning Recovery includes eight federal allowable use categories that most directly impact students and support for student learning: learning loss; summer and supplemental learning; unique needs of student populations; educational technology; mental health; premium pay for building staff; addressing remote student needs; and ESEA, IDEA, AEFLA, Perkins and McKinney-Vento.

Per pupil allocation

These one-time COVID federal relief funds added about \$815 to public school students' per pupil allocation and \$1,350 to the private school students' per pupil expenditures, on average, for school years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. It will again for the 2023-2024 school year.

The incremental funds

Congress issued a series of three funds to help public and private schools minimize disruptions to learning caused by the global pandemic. Each fund was targeted for a specific time frame, thus made available and spent incrementally.

Acronym	Name	Amount	School years
CARES ACT	Coronavirus Relief and Economic Security (SPARK and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) I.)	\$164 million	Primarily used for school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.
CRRSA ACT	Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (ESSER II and Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS) I.)	\$385 million	Primarily used for school year 2021-2022.
ARP ACT	American Rescue Plan (ESSER III and EANS II.)	\$856 million	Targeted primarily for school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

¹ Federal COVID-19 Funding for Kansas Public and Private Schools Report 10: Expenditures as of June 30, 2023 (PDF): <https://www.ksde.gov/Portals/0/ECSETS/Announcements/Report-PastExpenditures10.pdf>

Federal funds continue to be spent in order of availability. Note that all of ESSER I and ESSER I SPED funds have been totally expended, while half of ESSER III dollars remain available for the 2023-2024 school year.

Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) oversight process

KSDE established and refined a series of assurance processes over the course of the first year of the global pandemic to maximize potential benefits and assist schools with the use of federal relief funds. This oversight process precedes any drawn down of federal aid by districts and begins with locally developed plans submitted through a common state application. The Commissioner's Task Force and the Kansas State Board of Education review each application for recommended changes and/or approval. This multi-step approval process is followed by ongoing financial audit by KSDE of the locally incurred expenses.

KSDE Support for Schools

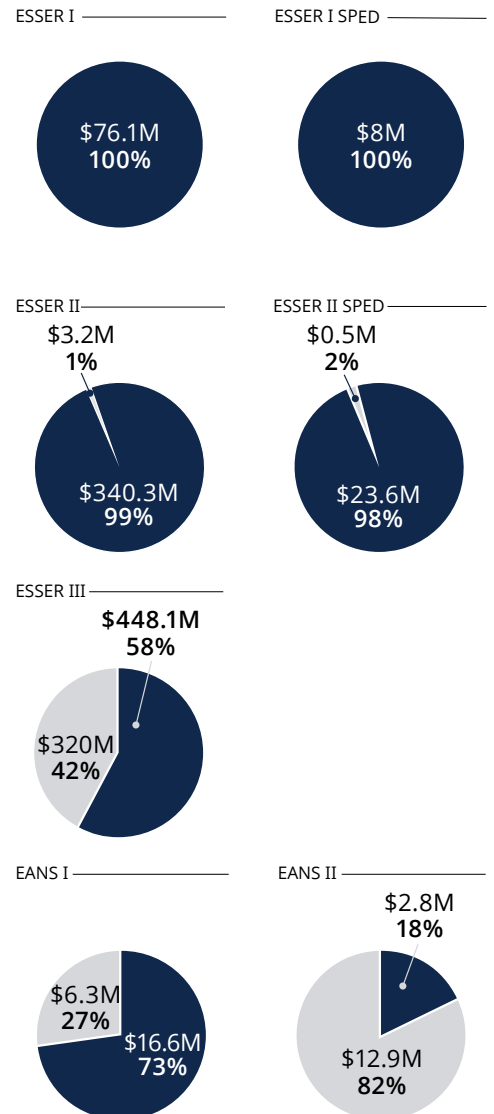
KSDE provided targeted financial support to local Kansas public and private schools, as well timely resource support in collaboration with education partners across the state.

- Financial Support.** KSDE directed significant portions of its federal allocation to support local special education services (\$32 million over three years). Another portion of state funds were allocated to districts that did not qualify for aid through the Title I criteria, referred to as a True Up. Every district received a minimum of \$300 per pupil, for each school year through 2023-2024 (\$33 million over three years).
- Resource Support.** Timely instructional support was also provided by KSDE and lead educators including: The Continuous Learning Task Force Guidance; Navigating Change: Kansas' Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations; Navigating Next; Sunflower Summer Program; Kansas LEADS; LETRS™ (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling).

Quarterly Reports.

KSDE publishes quarterly reports of these school expenditures.² Each report provides an update on the cumulative use of federal COVID-19 relief funds. These reports also feature expenditures by districts and private schools, by fund, including the final draw down of federal funds once the full oversight process has been completed.

■ Allocation fully spent ■ Funds remaining



² KSDE website. Federal Disaster and Pandemic Relief. Fund Reports: <https://www.ksde.gov/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Federal-Disaster-and-Pandemic-Relief>

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