

## EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND (ESF)

### *Relief for Elementary and Secondary Schools*

Congress has passed several rounds of financial assistance and relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including most recently the *American Rescue Plan*. The *American Rescue Plan* includes the following assistance for K-12 schools.

#### \*\*\* WHAT IS NEW IN THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN \*\*\*

The *American Rescue Plan* provides for more than \$125 billion for K-12 education, which can be used to help reopen schools safely, address learning loss, support high-quality afterschool and summer enrichment programs, and acquire education technology. Details are below.

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#### **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND**

Under the *American Rescue Plan*, the Congress appropriated \$125.8 billion to supplement the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF). These funds will be awarded to states based on their relative share of ESEA grants for fiscal year (FY) 2020. At least 87.5% of the funds must be awarded as subgrants to local education agencies (including charter schools) in proportion to the amount received under ESEA in FY 2020. Hawaii's state educational agency, the Hawaii Department of Education, functions as the local educational agency for the state. States may not reserve more than 0.5% for administrative costs. Additional information about the ESSERF can be found [here](#).

In addition, the *American Rescue Plan* included a maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement as a condition for receiving funding. States must maintain support for elementary and secondary education, and state support for higher education in FYs 2022 and 2023 at least at the levels of such support that is the average of such state's support for elementary and secondary education and for higher education provided in FYs 2017, 2018, and 2019. The *American Rescue Plan* also included a maintenance of equity provision to support high-need and high-poverty area schools. Additional information on the MOE can be found [here](#).

#### **Allocation to Hawaii**

Hawaii will receive \$412,328,764 under the *American Rescue Plan*, of which not less than 20 percent, or \$82,465,752, must be used to address learning loss. More information on the ESSERF under the *American Rescue Plan* can be found [here](#).

Previously, Hawaii received **\$183,595,211** under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (COVID relief law). The notice for the availability of funds can be found [here](#). A factsheet on the COVID relief law ESSERF can be found [here](#). The allocation under the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to Hawaii can be found in Table 1 and [here](#). The allocation under the COVID relief law to Hawaii can be found in Table 2 and [here](#). The allocation under the *American Rescue Plan* can be found in Table 3 and [here](#).

**Table 1: Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund Allocation to Hawaii under the CARES Act**

	<b>Total allocation</b>	<b>Minimum local education agency distribution</b>	<b>Maximum state education agency reservation</b>	<b>Maximum state education agency administration</b>
<b>Hawaii</b>	\$43,385,229	\$39,046,706	\$4,338,523	\$216,926

**Table 2: Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund Allocation to Hawaii under the COVID relief law**

	<b>Total allocation</b>	<b>Minimum local education agency distribution</b>	<b>Maximum state education agency reservation</b>	<b>Maximum state education agency administration</b>
<b>Hawaii</b>	\$183,595,211	\$165,235,690	\$18,359,521	\$917,976

**Table 3: Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund Allocation to Hawaii under the American Rescue Plan**

	<b>Total allocation</b>	<b>Minimum local education agency distribution</b>	<b>Maximum state education agency reservation</b>	<b>Maximum state education agency administration</b>
<b>Hawaii</b>	\$412,328,764	\$371,095,888	\$41,232,876	\$2,061,644

**Use of Funds**

A local education agency may use these funds to:

- Coordinate preparedness and response efforts;
- Provide principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools;
- Address the needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth;
- Purchase educational technology (hardware, software, and connectivity) for students, including low-income students and students with disabilities;
- Provide mental health services and supports;
- Plan and implement activities related to summer learning and supplemental after school programs, including online instruction; and
- Maintain the continuity of services in local education agencies and continuing to employ existing staff.

**GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF FUND**

The Congress appropriated an additional \$1.3 billion under the COVID relief law to be used to supplement the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF) awarded to each state with an approved GEERF application under the CARES Act. Additional information about the GEERF can be found [here](#).

An additional \$2.75 billion was set aside for the Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) program, which provide services or assistance to eligible K-12 private schools to address the impact that COVID-19 pandemic has had, and continues to have, on non-public school students and teachers. The *American Rescue Plan* provides an additional \$2.75 billion of the EANS. The EANS certification and agreement can be found [here](#).

### **Allocation to Hawaii**

Previously, Hawaii received **\$14,270,980** through the COVID relief law. The allocation under the CARES Act to Hawaii can be found [here](#). The allocation under the COVID relief law can be found [here](#).

### **Use of Funds**

A governor may use the funds to:

- Provide grants to local education agencies most impacted by coronavirus to support the on-going functionality of the local education agency;
- Provide grants to institutions of higher education the governor determines to be the most impacted by coronavirus; and
- Provide support to any other higher education institution, local education agency, or education related entity the governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services, the provision of childcare and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs.

### **IDEA SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING**

The *American Rescue Plan* includes an additional \$3.03 billion in funding for the following programs under *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA):

- \$2.58 billion for Part B, Section 611 grants to states program;
- \$200 million for Part B, Section 619 preschool grants program; and
- \$250 million for Part C, programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities grants.

These IDEA programs support special education and related services for children with disabilities.

### **Allocation to Hawaii**

Hawaii will receive an estimated **\$11,215,000** in supplemental IDEA funding, broken down as follows:

- \$9,440,000 for the Part B, Section 611 program;
- \$553,000 for the Part B, Section 619 program; and
- \$1,222,000 for the Part C program.

### **Use of funds**

The IDEA Part B, Section 611 program authorizes the “grants to states” program, which supports special education for school-age children. The IDEA Part B, Section 619 program authorizes the “preschool grants” program for children with disabilities ages three through five. The IDEA Part C program assists states in operating a comprehensive statewide program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, ages birth through age two, and their families.