



Practical insights on using ESSER funds

24 June 2021

Facilitated by Monica Blomker, Policy Analyst, Cognia

Agenda

How did we get here?

- Overview of federal relief landscape
- Key requirements and considerations

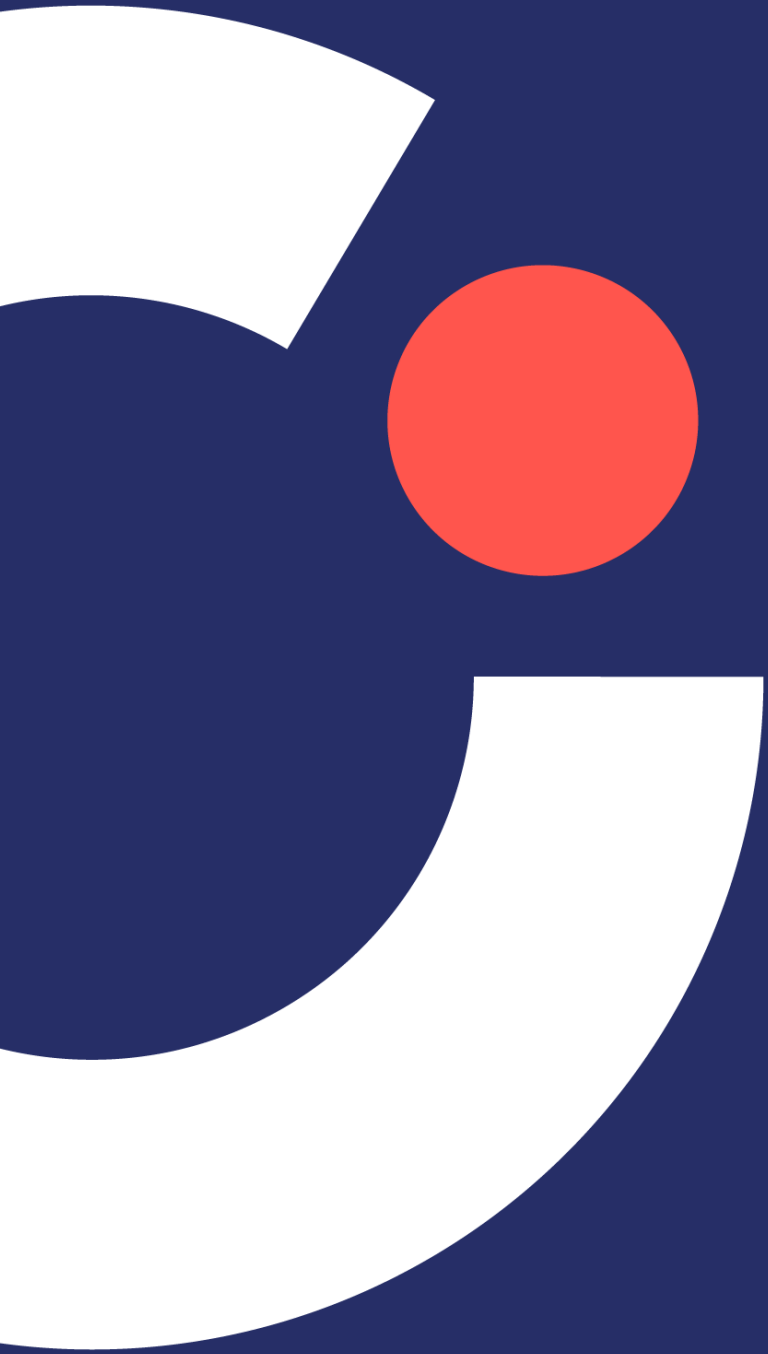
Where are we now?

- District leader stories

Where are we going?

- Expectations for monitoring and evaluation
- Opportunities to maximize impact and effectiveness





How did we get
here?

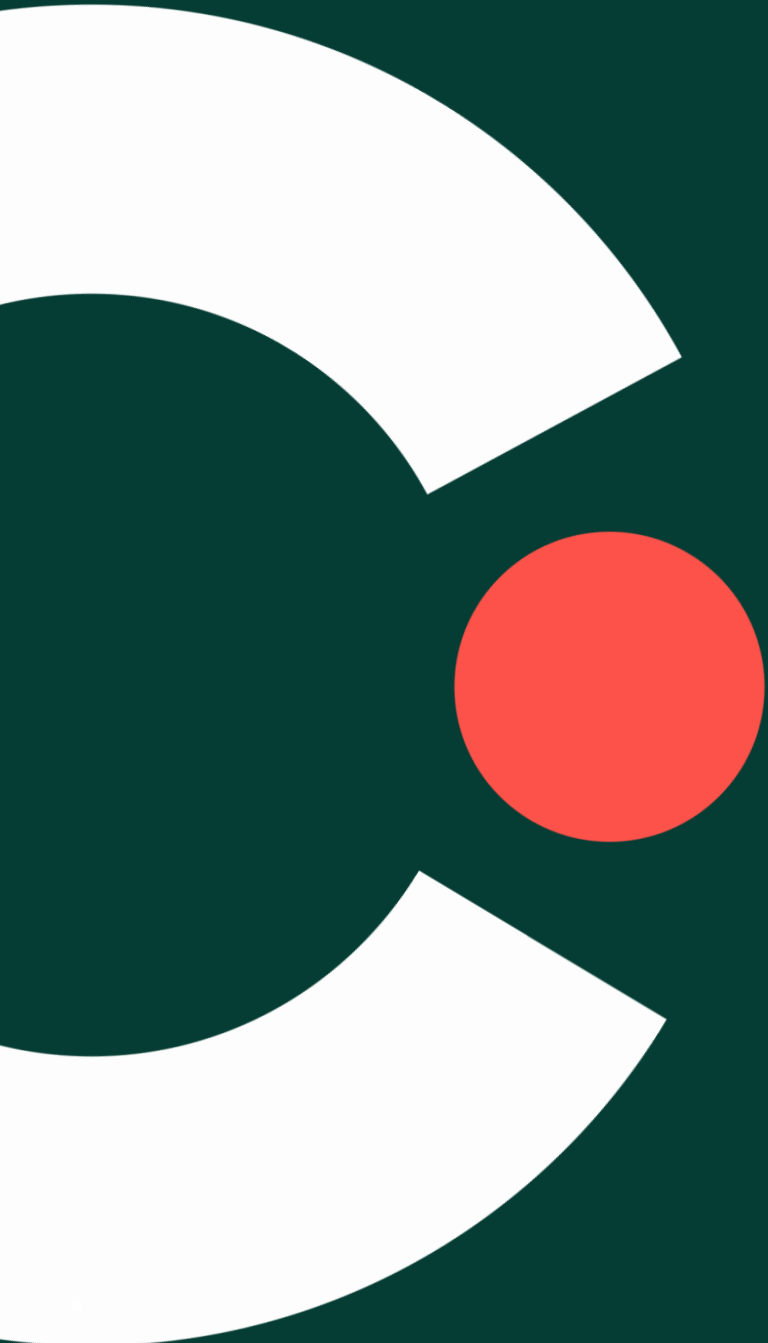
Federal funding packages

Legislation	ESSER Amount	Period of Availability	District Requirements
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) March 2020	\$13.23 Billion (allocated to SEAs and LEAs based in proportion to Title I, Part A FY19)	30 Sept 2022	Funds must be used for preventing, preparing for, and responding to Covid-19.
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) December 2020	\$ 54.3 Billion (allocated to SEAs and LEAs based in proportion to Title I, Part A FY20)	30 Sept 2023	Same as CARES, with the addition of addressing learning loss, preparing for school reopening, testing/preparing/upgrading projects to improve building air quality.
American Rescue Plan (ARP) March 2021	\$122.75 Billion (allocated to SEAs and LEAs based in proportion to Title I, Part A FY20, after \$800 Million set-aside for homeless children and youth)	30 Sept 2024	20% must be reserved for addressing learning loss through evidence-based interventions (e.g., summer learning/enrichment, extended school year) and interventions must respond to student academic, social, and emotional needs. Funds must address the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on underrepresented student groups. Remaining 80% may be allocated for the same uses as CARES and CRRSA.



Requirements and considerations

- **ESSER funds must:**
 - Be tied to pandemic relief and recovery
 - Focus on students impacted most by the pandemic
- **ESSER applications must:**
 - Be submitted separately
 - Separately track expenditures
 - Include stakeholder consultation



Where are we
now?

Our panelists



Dr. Sue Cleveland
Superintendent

Rio Rancho Public Schools
Rio Rancho, New Mexico



Mr. Brandon Watkins
Director of Curriculum,
Instruction, and Assessment

Montgomery County Schools
Montgomery County, KY



Where are we
going?

Monitor and evaluate

A woman in a grey blazer and blue jeans stands on the left, gesturing with her hands as she presents to an audience. The audience, consisting of several people, is seated at desks on the right, facing the presenter. The background is a white brick wall.

- Start with the end in mind
- Anticipate sources of data that can support
- Measure what matters

Opportunities to maximize impact

See the system and understand your needs

- Needs assessment
- Stakeholder consultation
- Historical improvement needs and priorities

It takes a village

- Trusted partnerships
- Connect with other education leaders

Think sustainably

- Avoid the “cliff”
- Strategic planning
- Integration with current and ongoing effort



Questions?

Knowledge is Opportunity



Cognia is a global nonprofit that has the knowledge to help schools improve outcomes for all learners.

