

SAVVAS



**A Guide To
Federal COVID-19
Relief Bills for
K12 Education**



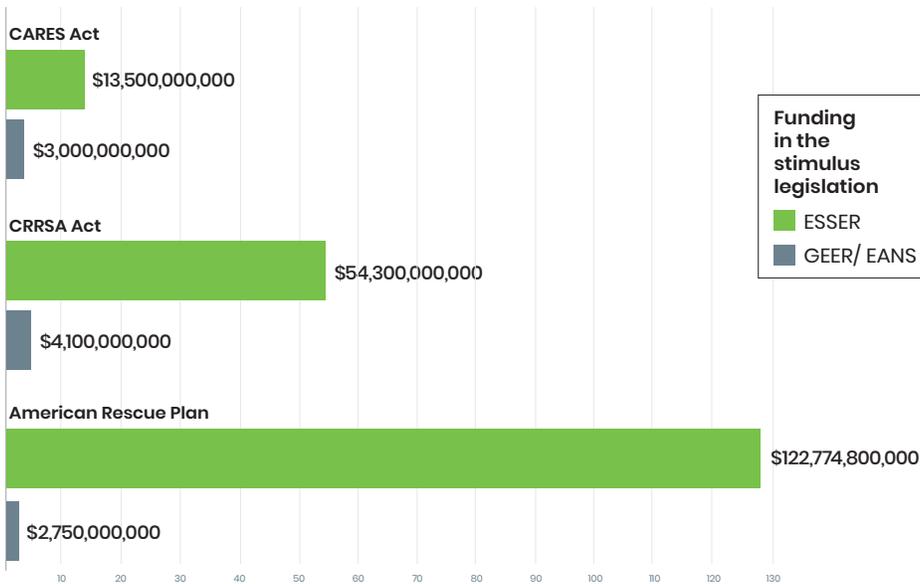
Introduction

Savvas Learning Company carries on a longstanding tradition of innovation and leadership in K-12 education. Recognized for building learning solutions from the ground up to be used successfully in a blended learning environment, we set out to further enhance our high-quality content and engaging digital experiences so that all students can maximize their learning anytime, anywhere.

Savvas has created this informative guide to help educators understand the funding available to them through the various stimulus bills:

- **Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).** On March 27, 2020, a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill called the CARES Act was passed by the 116th U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump. These funds were in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and were intended to provide economic assistance for American businesses and industries, including education.
- **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA).** On December 27, 2020, an additional bipartisan stimulus package of \$900 billion was approved under the CRRSA Act.
- **American Rescue Plan.** On March 11, 2021, a third stimulus package of \$1.9 trillion called the American Rescue Plan was signed into law by President Joe Biden.

Overview of Federal Coronavirus Aid for K12



Within the legislation to support the nation's efforts to deal with COVID-19, two programs are focused on education: **ESSER** and **GEER**.

	CARES Act	CRRSA Act	American Rescue Plan
ESSER – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief			
Total amount for K-12	\$13.5 billion (often called ESSER-I)	\$54.3 billion (often called ESSER-II)	\$122.7 billion (often called ARP ESSER or ESSER-III)
Distribution to districts	District allocations based on Title I.	District allocations based on Title I.	District allocations based on Title I
Use of funds	12 allowable uses of funds.	15 allowable uses of funds. <i>(see p. 4 for Savvas program alignment to allowable activities).</i>	Same 15 allowable uses of funds. 20% must be spent on addressing the academic impact of lost instructional time.
Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)			
Total amount	\$3 billion	\$4.1 billion. \$2.75 billion is earmarked for Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools	\$2.75 billion for Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS)
Distribution	Varies by State. Can support both K12 and Higher Education.	Varies by State. Can support both K12 and Higher Education. Non-public schools can apply for services and assistance. Priority is for non-publics that enroll low-income students.	Non-public schools can apply for services and assistance.
Use of funds	Varies by State. Many States are focused on distance learning, connectivity, and providing hardware devices.	Will vary by State. Among the allowable use of funds, non-public schools will be able to receive education technology and education support services for remote learning, hybrid learning, or to address learning loss.	Same allowable use of funds as CRRSA EANS



ESSER Alignment

The following table demonstrates how Savvas programs align to allowable activities under ESSER. These are just some of our featured programs that can be purchased with your ESSER funds. Browse our entire array of programs at [Savvas.com](https://www.savvas.com).

Allowable Use of Funds under ESSER	Three Cheers for Pre-K myView Literacy/myPerspectives™ ELA	enVision® Math	elevateScience™ Miller & Levine Biology Experience Chemistry Experience Physics	myWorld Interactive	Auténtico	Words Their Way Classroom	Success-Maker®	iLit	SIOP®	Savvas Math Screener & Diagnostic Assessments
Any activity authorized under ESEA, IDEA, Carl Perkins, Adult Family Literacy Act, and McKinney-Vento Homeless Act.			 Aligns to Title IV's well-rounded education		 Aligns to Title IV's well-rounded education	 Aligns to Title I	 Aligns to Title I	 Aligns to Title I	 Aligns to Title I, II, and III	 Aligns to Title I
Address the needs of individual schools.										
Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth.										
Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including how to provide technology for online learning to all students.										
Educational technology for students that aids in regular and substantive education interactions between students and their classroom instructors.										
Summer Learning and Supplemental Afterschool Programs.										
Address Learning Loss by improving academic instruction including: • Administering assessments • Implementing evidence based activities • Helping parents support students in distance learning • Improving student engagement in distance education										
Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies.										

Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time

The American Rescue Plan requires districts use at least 20% of ARP ESSER funds to address the pandemic’s academic impact due to:

- Lost learning time due to school closures, abbreviated class schedules, or intermittent access to devices and internet connectivity
- Loss of access to community resources
- Decreased student engagement and/or increased absenteeism
- Social-emotional needs due to increased stress, food and housing insecurity, family loss, etc.

The **CRRSA** identifies four ways school districts may use stimulus funds to address lost instructional time. This chart presents how Savvas solutions correspond to these areas. The gray row of the table below is legislative language outlining examples for use of funds.

	Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction	Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students	Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment	Improving student engagement in distance education
READING & LITERACY				
Savvas Summer Impact: Reading	✓	✓	✓	✓
Savvas Literacy Screener & Diagnostic Assessments	✓	✓	N/A	N/A
Reading Spot	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Savvas Now Literacy	N/A	✓	N/A	✓
Savvas Essentials™ Foundational Reading	✓	✓	✓	✓
MATH				
Savvas Summer Impact: Math	✓	✓	✓	✓
Savvas Math Screener & Diagnostic Assessments	✓	✓	N/A	N/A
MULTIDISCIPLINARY				
Savvas One™ Summer	✓	✓	✓	✓

Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time (continued)

In the **American Rescue Plan**, Congress placed increased emphasis on the learning time lost due to the pandemic. Both States and Districts are required to use a portion of their ARP ESSER allocations to address this issue:

5%

States required to set aside 5% of the state ARP ESSER allocation for activities to address lost instructional time, either to carry out directly or through grants or contracts.

20%

Districts are required to use a minimum of 20% of their ARP ESSER allocation to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.

FAQ

Can stimulus funds purchase textbooks or only digital licenses?

Both are allowed. To aid the academic recovery, districts need high-quality instructional materials to create coherence and offer consistency whether students are learning remotely at home or in person.

- **Digital licenses:** One of the allowable uses of ESSER funds is “Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors.”
- **Textbooks:** Multiple States have issued ESSER Guidance stating that high-quality instructional materials are an allowable use of ESSER funds.

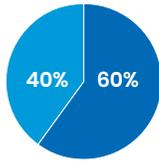
Can districts braid ESSER with other funds?

Yes. ESSER funds may be used in combination with federal or any other education funds.

[Question A-17 on page 22 of the December 22, 2022 Dept of Ed FAQ](#)

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)

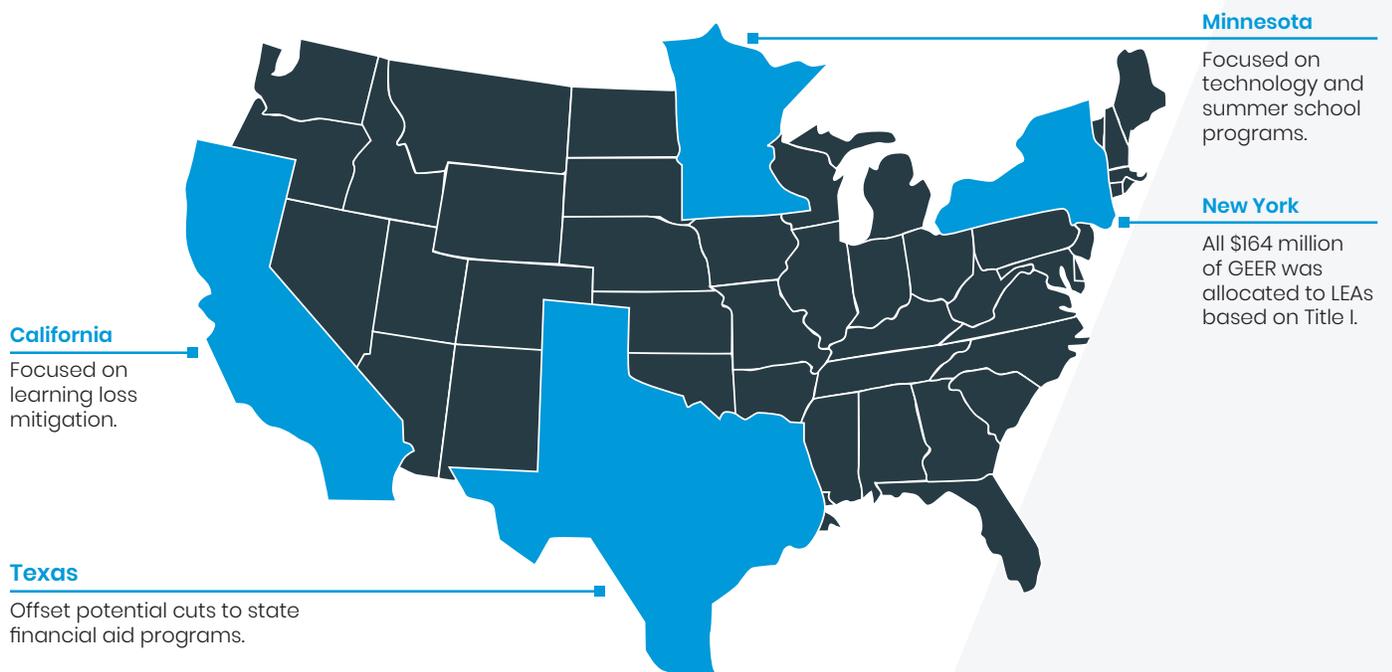
The CARES Act and CRRSA both awarded education funds to States' Governor offices based on this formula:



- **60%** based on the population of students 5-24
- **40%** on the basis of the State's relative number of children

Each Governor has discretion on distribution of GEER funds as long as local education agencies (LEAs) or institutions of higher education are the beneficiaries.

Examples of how States used GEER funds under the CARES Act below:



Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS)

Both the CRRSA Act and the American Rescue Plan earmark \$2.75B of GEER for non-public schools. Within 30 days of receiving funds, States must provide an application to non-public schools so they can apply for services and assistance. The priority is for non-publics that enroll low-income students, meaning the grant application will be competitive and not all private schools will be funded.

Non-public schools can use EANS for cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, ventilation systems as well as:

- **Educational technology** (including hardware, software, connectivity, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment) to assist students, educators, and other staff with remote or hybrid learning.
- **Redeveloping instructional plans, including curriculum development**, for remote learning, hybrid learning, or to address learning loss.
- Initiating and maintaining **education and support services or assistance for remote learning**, hybrid learning, or to address learning loss.

Who is eligible?

Non-public elementary or secondary schools that are non-profit, accredited/licensed, and existed before March 13, 2020. States must prioritize non-public schools serving students from low-income families and are most impacted by COVID-19.

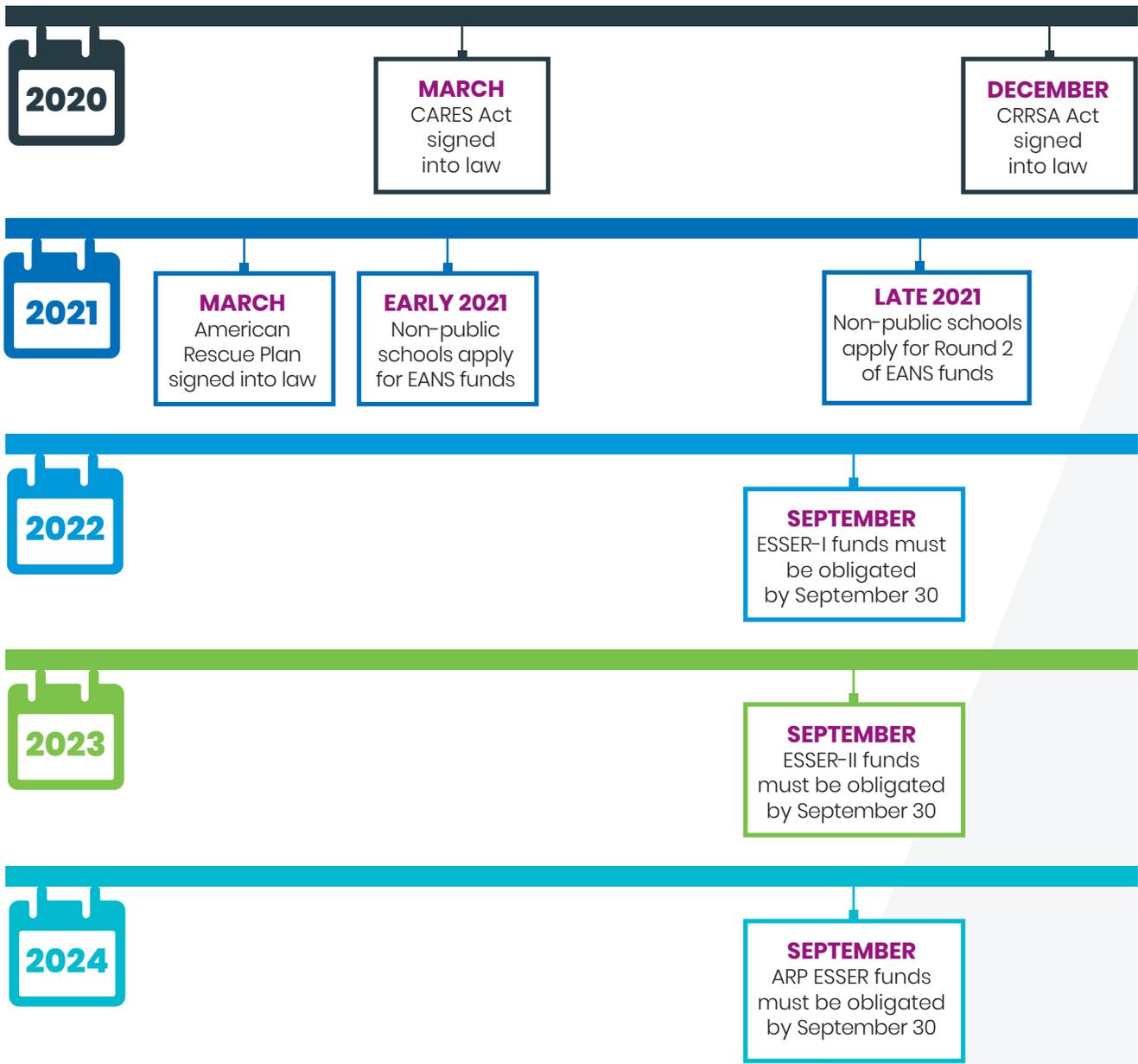
Who controls the funds?

The legislative language is clear that non-public schools are applying for services or assistance. The actual funding, as well as title to materials purchased, will remain in control of a public agency. Provision of services or assistance must be independent of the non-public school. All services, assistance, equipment, and materials must be secular, neutral, and non-ideological.

What does this mean for Equitable Services?

Local Education Agencies were required to offer equitable services to non-public school students with funding from the CARES Act. However, districts are not required to provide equitable services to non-public schools with funding from CRRSA or the American Rescue Plan.

Timeline



ESSER Spending Timelines

With supply chain disruptions, inflation, and labor shortages, many districts are revisiting their original Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) plans. The Department of Education has given greater flexibility by extending the ESSER liquidation date for certain contracts.

DEFINITIONS

Obligation:

Each wave of ESSER funding has a September 30 obligation deadline based on statutory and regulatory requirements. “Obligation” does not mean funds have to be spent by that date. It means there is a firm plan of how those funds will be spent such as a written contract.

Liquidation deadline:

Each wave of ESSER funds are to be liquidated (or spent) 120 days after each obligation deadline.

Liquidation Extension:

On September 29, 2022, the U.S. Department of Education has announced they will approve liquidation extension requests for CARES-ESSER I, for specific projects, via requests submitted by States on behalf of Districts.

If approved, grantees may have up to 14 months to spend funds beyond the end of the obligation period.





ESSER TIMELINE OF EXPENDITURES

School Year	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2022-23			Sept 30 ESSER I must be obligated (PO or Contract must be completed)	<i>If Districts don't think they'll be able to spend all ESSER I by Jan 28, 2023, they can ask the State to ask the DOE for an extension. Must cite specific project and adequate justification</i>			Jan 28 ESSER I liquidation (Cash must be spent)					
2023-24			Sept 30 ESSER II must be obligated (PO or Contract must be completed)	<i>The process for requesting an extension of ESSER II spending has not been released yet</i>			Jan 28 ESSER II liquidation (Cash must be spent)			Apr 1 max extension period to spend ESSER I		
2024-25			Sept 30 ESSER III must be obligated (PO or Contract must be completed)	<i>The process for requesting an extension of ESSER III spending has not been released yet</i>			Jan 28 ESSER III liquidation (Cash must be spent)			Apr 1 Anticipated max extension period to spend ESSER II		
2025-26										Apr 1 Anticipated max extension period to spend ESSER III		

FAQs

Can we use ESSER funds for activities beyond September 2024?

Yes. The Education Department updated the [ESSER FAQ](#) on December 7, 2022 to clarify – Funds must be obligated by the end of the performance period, but grant-funded services activities may continue beyond that date.

Does this mean we can purchase a multi-year license with ESSER funds?

Yes. Districts can purchase a multi-year license with ESSER funds to implement high-quality instructional materials as part of their plan to address the academic impact of lost instructional time. Districts would need to sign the contract before the end of the performance period (obligate) and spend funds within 120 calendar days after the end of the performance period (liquidate), but can carry out grant activities beyond the end of the performance period.

How long can our contract be?

The Federal ESSER FAQ does not set a time-period for how long ESSER-funded services can be provided. It says “for a reasonable time.”

What happens if funds are unspent?

Any unspent ESSER funds is returned to the federal government.

Talk to your Savvas Account Manager about your district’s plan to accelerate learning.

[Savvas.com/ESSER](https://www.savvas.com/ESSER)

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