

ROYALS (Regional Office Youth Alternative Learning Services) ESSERS 2021

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, the United States Department of Education has released three grants for which local education agencies (K-12) can apply. These ESSER grants will provide school districts with emergency relief funds to address the impact COVID-19 has had on elementary and secondary schools.

ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Department of Education has released three grants for which local education agencies can apply. These grants, known as ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III, were authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act); the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA); and the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

	CARES ACT: ESSER I	CRSA: ESSER II	ARP: ESSER III
Start Date	March 13, 2020	March 13, 2020	March 13, 2020
End Date	September 30, 2022	September 30, 2023	September 30, 2024
ROYALS Allocation	\$1,428.00	\$4,628.00	\$51,786

Allowable Uses:

- Coordinate emergency funding
- Purchase cleaning supplies
- Educational technology
- Mental health supports
- Supplementary learning
- Added needs for at-risk population
- Transportation
- Coordinated services for long-term closure
- Professional development
- Other grant allowable expenses
- McKinney Vento Expenses
- Parent education
- Learning loss (required for ESSER III)
- Improving air quality
- Improving facilities

CARES Act: ESSER I

In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law. The CARES Act dedicated \$13.2 billion for K-12 schools through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. This grant is known as ESSER I. The intent

and purpose of ESSER I funding is to provide emergency relief funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19. ESSER I funds can be used to cover expenses incurred March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2022.

ROYALS' safe school and alternative programs applied to receive its ESSER I allocation in May 2020. ROYALS' ESSER I allocation of \$1,428.00 was used for PPE and sanitation supplies to be utilized by the alternative schools operated by the Regional Office of Education #26 at three school sites. Purchases included: non-contact infrared forehead thermometers, masks for both teacher and student use, hand sanitizer for both teacher and student use, and miscellaneous cleaning/disinfectant supplies for the three alternative education classrooms.

CRRSA: ESSER II

In December, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) was signed into law. CRRSA dedicated an additional \$54.3 billion to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. The grant is known as ESSER II. ESSER II funds can be used to cover expenses incurred March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2023.

ROYALS' safe schools and alternative programs applied to receive its ESSER II allocation in May 2021. ROYALS' ESSER II allocation was \$4,628.00 and was used to provide a remote summer school option (*Project Edgenuity Summer Program*) to provide an opportunity for students to earn credits towards graduation lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. This opportunity was offered to all currently enrolled ROYALS students as well as students in grades 6-12 served by our districts. Two part-time staff members were hired to supervise the program.

ARP: ESSER III

In March 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law. ARP dedicated \$122 billion to the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) Fund. This grant is known as ESSER III. The intent and purpose of ESSER III is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the Coronavirus on students.

ROYALS' safe schools and alternative programs will apply to receive its allocation of ESSER III funds October 1, 2021, based on feedback from stakeholder groups. ROYALS' ESSER III allocation is \$51,786. These funds are supplemental to ROYALS' budget and will be used to address the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on our program. ROYALS' plan for ESSER III funds may include salaries for staff members to hold an *Project Edgenuity Summer Program* in June 2022 to provide an additional opportunity for students to earn credits towards graduation lost during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as salaries to support a new position intended to support SEL (social and emotional learning).

ROYALS is seeking input as we create a plan for using these resources. Please share your feedback by completing the brief survey linked below.

<https://forms.gle/BHHSjJR6PzmYHKkn6>