



NEWS RELEASE

For additional information, please contact David Jespersen by phone (402-471-4537) or email (david.jespersen@nebraska.gov)

NOVEMBER 25, 2020

CARES ACT INVESTMENTS IN NEBRASKA

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. The relief package includes two separate funds for education – the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund.

The majority of available ESSER funds (90 percent) go directly to local school districts to address the impact that COVID-19 continues to have on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) monitors how districts are making investments locally. Districts have until September 30, 2022 to expend their allocated funds.

The ESSER Fund also provides resources for statewide investments. In response to the impact of school closures in the spring due to COVID-19, the NDE administered a public feedback survey on how state resources should be allocated in a way that most benefits Nebraska students and schools. A total of 4,981 survey responses were received and the allocation of statewide funds reflects the results.

To address equitable access challenges, GEER Funds, directed by Governor Ricketts, are being used to improve student access to education by expanding the availability of devices and systems to deliver education services remotely.

The information below outlines how money has been allocated statewide thus far, through both ESSER and GEER Funds.

Nebraska ESSER Allocation:

- \$58.6 million directly to [local education agencies](#)
- \$6.4 million for statewide activities (details below)
 - \$3,809,500 – Technology infrastructure
 - \$251,250 – School reentry planning support
 - \$0, no additional funds – Nutritional Support (funded through the USDA school lunch program)
 - \$253,597 – Professional learning
 - \$200,000 – Mental, behavioral, and emotional support
 - \$4,514,347 – *Total funds used to date*

Nebraska ESSER Statewide Allocation Details (\$6.4 million):

[CARES Act Funding](#)
[Priority](#)

####

David Jespersen
Public Information Officer, Nebraska Department of Education
402-471-4537
david.jespersen@nebraska.gov
@NDE_News