



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: March 24, 2021

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Shirley Vargas, Ed.L.D.
School Transformation Officer

Beth Wooster
Administrator, Office of Federal Programs

Amy Rhone
Administrator, Office of Special Education

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to award Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER II) Statewide funds to public school districts ineligible for a district allocation.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021, the United States Department of Education (USDE) awarded funds to State Educational Agencies (SEAs) to help states to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the devastating effects of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Of the funds awarded, no less than 90% of the funds are provided to districts and the remaining funds can be used for an SEA reserve.

Public school districts are awarded an allocation based on their Title I, Part A allocations from the prior school year. Of our 244 public school districts, there are five public school districts who are ineligible to receive an ESSER II allocation. In an effort to support all schools and the students they serve, the NDE is recommending the utilization of statewide ESSER II funds to provide an allocation for these five districts (see table below). The allocations were determined based on comparable allocations to districts of similar size and demographic. These districts were asked to identify priorities based on the Nebraska Framework for School Renewal and Acceleration and will complete an application to receive these funds.

Public School District	ESSER II Allocation
McPherson County Schools	\$37,065
Arthur County Schools	\$37,065
Sioux County Schools	\$37,065
Exeter-Milligan Public Schools	\$42,170
Elgin Public Schools	\$102,990
Total	\$256,355

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): April, 2021

ESTIMATED COST: \$256,355

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: ESSER II Statewide Funds
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: