

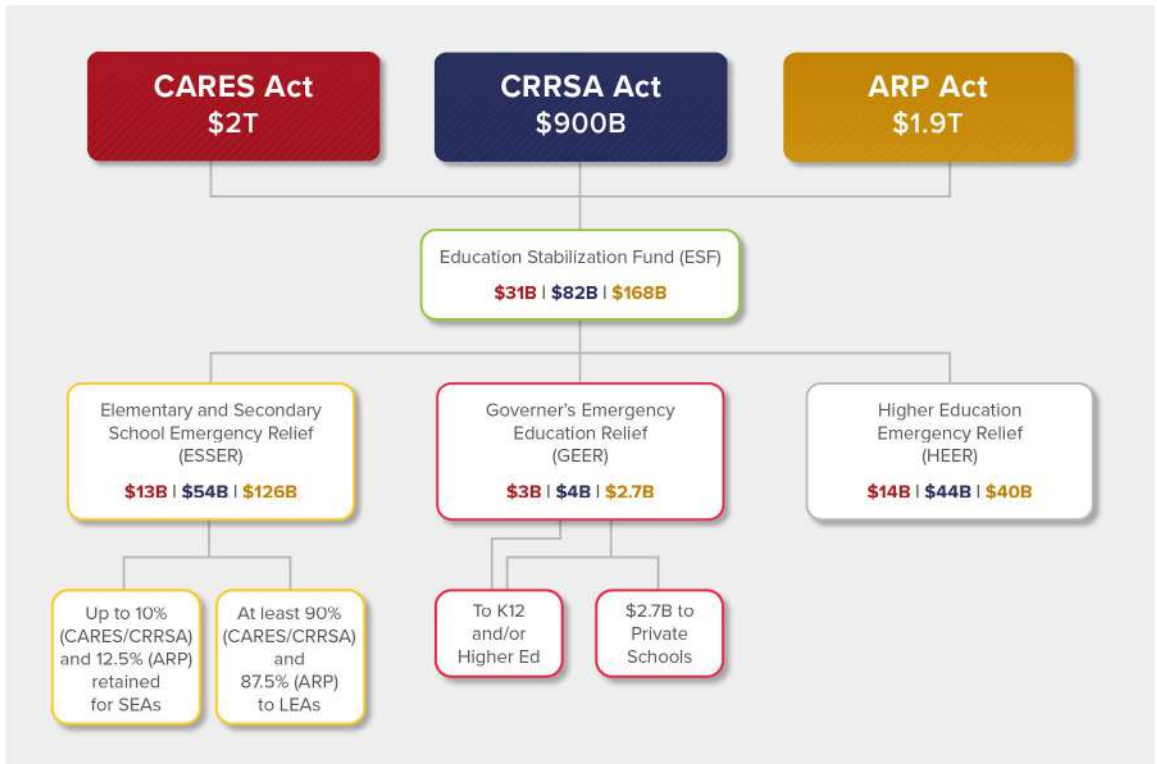


Answers to Your Top K-12 Stimulus Fund FAQs

What stimulus funds are available for K-12 education?

The CARES, CRRSA, and ARP Acts directed billions of dollars to the Education Stabilization Fund, which then splits into three primary funds:

- The Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) Fund: Allocated to State Education Agencies (SEAs), who then award at least 90% to Local Education Agencies (LEAs)/districts (87.5% in the APR Act).
- The Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund: Awarded at the Governor’s discretion to address the highest priority needs across K-12 and public higher education institutions
- The Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) Fund



How much stimulus funding is my district receiving?

Each district will receive a different amount based upon multiple factors. The US Department of Education has launched [this site](#) that shows CARES Act allocations for states and districts (be sure to select ESSER). And [here is an interactive table](#) that shows estimated ESSER funds by state and district from the CRRSA Act.

Why do some districts receive more stimulus funds than others?

ESSER funds are awarded based upon the federal Title I, Part A funding formula. This makes funding distribution more equitable, yet not equal.

What should my district spend its funds on?

That depends upon your district's unique needs and goals. However, the legislation is intended for emergency relief. At a high level, this means activities that support the safe reopening of schools, advance equity, and accelerate student achievement. Notably, the CARES, CRRSA, and ARP Acts permit, among other things, any activity authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which include programs related to effective teaching and learning. Due to the extended impact of the pandemic on teaching and learning in most areas, there is widespread agreement that funds should be targeted toward implementing [comprehensive assessment systems](#) with high-quality standards and skills-based content, and [building data systems](#) that empower educators to make targeted instructional decisions. Many districts are also prioritizing educator [professional learning](#) and adopting systems to support student social-emotional wellbeing.

All Illuminate Education products and services are qualified ESSER purchases that equip educators to equitably and effectively accelerate growth for each and every student. To learn more, visit our [K-12 COVID Stimulus Funds page](#).

		DnA/ SchoolCity	Content	FastBridge	eduCLIMBER	Achievement Dashboard	IO/ eSchoolData	Services
Title I	Providing high-quality education for low-income students	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Title II, A	Improving teacher and principal quality				X	X		X
Title III	Supplementing English language instruction	X	X	X	X	X		X
Title IV, A	Delivering well-rounded education; Safe and Supportive Schools			X	X	X	X	X

When do stimulus funds have to be spent?

Spending deadlines for ESSER funds were recently updated.

- CARES Act ESSER funds must be obligated by September 2022
- CRRSA Act ESSER funds must be obligated by September 2023
- ARP Act ESSER funds must be obligated by September 2023

ESSER funds may be applied to purchases made prior to the actual award of funding (but since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic).

What are some ways to maximize stimulus funding?

While the stimulus provides many districts with a substantial amount of new funding, the challenges they face are greater than ever. Moreover, tight spending deadlines mean districts have to think and act quickly. To get the most out of this unique one-time funding, we recommend districts:

- Ensure the impact on student achievement is at the forefront of all spending decisions.
- Consider using funds to pay now for multiple years of solutions that are designed to assess and accelerate student growth.
- Invest in professional learning for teachers and administrators to grow assessment and data literacy across your district.



Illuminate Education provides comprehensive assessment, MTSS collaboration and management, and real-time dashboard tools that equip educators to equitably accelerate learning. Reach out to [learn more](#).