# New Jersey Department of Education

## Advisory Committee for Federally Funded Programs

Division of Educational Services January 26, 2024



# **AGENDA**



#### Advisory Committee for Federally Funded Programs

TEAMS Chat Box Monitor Mr. Clark Coe

Office of the Executive Director

Greetings Ms. Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner

Review of September 22nd ACFFP

Meeting Highlights

Ms. Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner

Federal Update Ms. Aida Epifanio, Federal Liaison

Office of Strategic Operations

ARP ESSER Expanded Allowable Uses

and Resources

Ms. Diana Pasculli, Executive Director

Ms. Jill Dobrowansky, Grants Specialist

Office of Grants Management

ESSA Implementation NJDOE Staff



# Call To Order & Greetings

Ms. Kathy Ehling Assistant Commissioner



# Review of ACFFP Meeting Highlights September 22, 2023

Ms. Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner



# Federal Update

Ms. Aida Epifanio, Federal Liaison Office of Strategic Operations



# Federal Budget Updates

- Congress has still not passed a final budget; however, they do have a <u>bipartisan agreement</u> on the top spending levels for FY2024.
- Congress passed a continuing resolution on January 18 to avoid a government shutdown and keep the government open until March 2024, at which point they will likely finalize and pass the spending bill.



# FAFSA Updates

- The new 2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), ("Better FAFSA") was released in December 2023.
- The FAFSA form has changed to implement provisions of the FUTURE Act and the FAFSA Simplification Act.
- USED has provided a <u>summary of changes</u> and have launched a <u>2024-25 FAFSA Updates</u> page to help ensure that students, families, and other stakeholders are best prepared for a successful 2024–25 FAFSA cycle. This includes a <u>live webinar series</u>, where stakeholders can ask questions about the form.



# SY 22-23 National K-12 Supports

- Resources to Help Programs Sustain Afterschool and Summer Programs After ESSER Funding Deadlines: The Afterschool Alliance has created a new web page of resources, tools, and strategies to help sustain afterschool and summer programs beyond the ESSER III funding deadline.
- <u>CDC Releases New School Mental Health Action Guide</u>: This guide was created to provide K-12 schools with actionable strategies to help improve the mental health of their students.
- <u>COVID-19 Tests Available for Free for School Districts</u>: USED is working in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to provide free COVID-19 tests to school districts.







# New Jersey Department of Education



# REVIEW. AMEND. SPEND.

# American Rescue Plan (ARP ESSER) Expanded Allowable Uses and ARP ESSER Resources

Divisions of Educational Services and Finance & Business Services



# **Updates on NJDOE ARP ESSER Resources**

Diana Pasculli

Executive Director Division of Educational Services









#### 1. Review. Amend. Spend. And Maximizing Federal Funds Resources

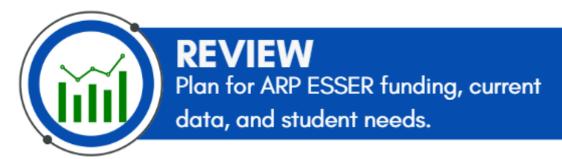
- a. Website Resources
- b. Reminders of How to Use the Resources
- 2. Expanded ARP ESSER Allowable Uses
  - a. Recap of ARP ESSER
  - b. Expanded Uses for Teaching and Learning and Mental Health Services
  - c. Amending EWEG For Expanding Your Use
- 3. Question and Answers



# REVIEW. AMEND. SPEND.



ARP ESSER allowable uses include opportunities to spend funds on what LEAs need most. These needs may have changed. Here is a step-by-step guide to get started.



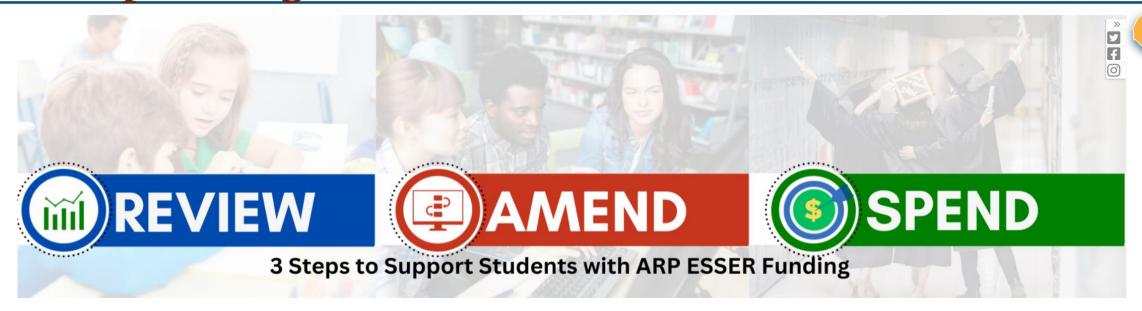








# **Spending ARP ESSER Funds**





We are here to help!

Review. Amend. Spend. Website





### **Maximizing Federal Funds**

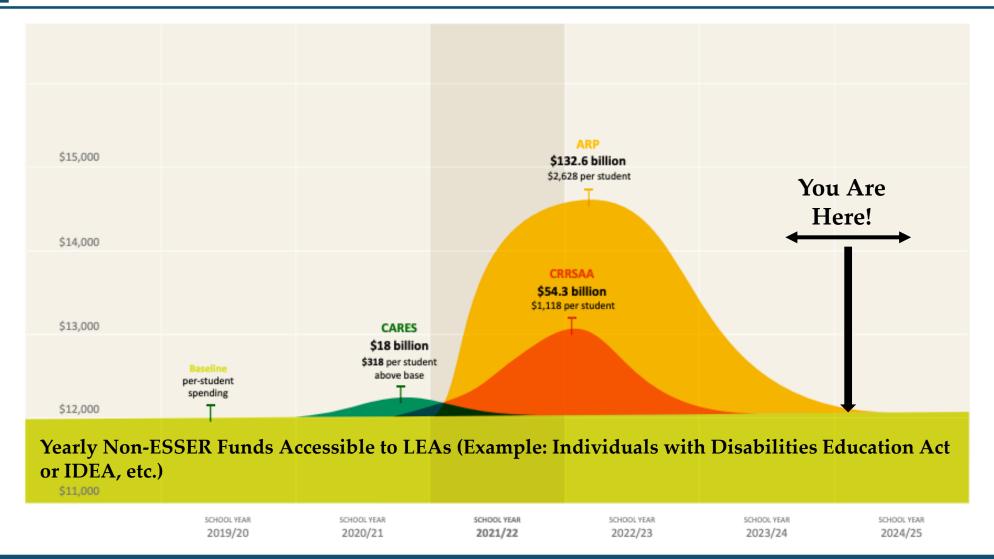
- The Maximizing Federal Funds website provides LEAs and stakeholders with information about how different Federal funds may be used to meet their specific, identified needs.
- The resources available on the website can provide ideas and inspiration about how to best use ESSER money and how to pair it with more sustainable funding to have positive, lasting impacts on students.





### Fiscal Landscape Requiring Smart Spending







### Agenda



- 1. Review. Amend. Spend. And Maximizing Federal Funds Resources
  - a. Website Resources
  - b. Reminders of How to Use the Resources

#### 2. ARP ESSER Allowable Uses

- a. Recap of ARP ESSER
- b. Expanded Uses for Teaching and Learning and Mental Health Services
- c. Amending EWEG For Expanding Your Use
- 3. Question and Answers



# **ARP ESSER - New Jersey Details**

# NJ's Total ARP ESSER Allocation: \$2,766,529,533

Minimum Direct to LEAs (90%) \$2,489,876,580

- Develop Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction
- At least 20% for learning loss activities that address social, emotional, and academic needs and disproportionate impact on subgroups
- Remaining 80% on wide range of activities: special emphasis on implementing public health protocols consistent with CDC guidance

Maximum State Set-Aside (10%) \$276,652,953

Accelerated Learning (5%)

Summer (1%)

Beyond School Day (1%)

NJTSS (2.5%)

Admin. (0.5%)



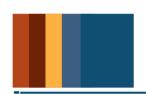


### ARP ESSER - 20% To Address Learning Loss



- Activities Addressing Academic Needs
- Activities Addressing SEL Needs
- Activities Addressing Disproportionate Impact on Student Groups





#### **ARP ESSER - Set-Aside Grants**



The ARP ESSER State Plan Section D Set Aside Grants include:

Accelerated Learning Coaching and Educator Support Grant

Evidence-based Summer Learning and Enrichment Activities Grant

Evidence-based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities Grant

NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing Grant



### Amendments to the ARP ESSER Allowable Uses



On December 27, 2023, the United States Department of Education (USED) approved the NJDOE's request to expand the allowable uses of existing setaside grants allocated to LEAs.



These extended allowable uses will enhance ongoing LEA efforts to use ARP ESSER funds to address learning loss.



New allowable uses include high-impact tutoring and mental health services.



#### Learning Acceleration Student and Educator Supports Grant

Evidence-based Summer Learning and Enrichment Activities Grant

Evidence-based Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities Grant



Division of Teaching and Learning



# Original Teaching and Learning Grant Uses



### Accelerated Learning Coaching and Educator Support Grant

At least \$50,000 for staff coaching on topics including:

- Teaching and learning that that fosters the social and emotional well-being of students, families, and educators.
- Improving equitable access to gradelevel content and high-quality resources for each student.
- Prioritizing the depth of instruction rather than the pace.
- Implementing an accelerated learning cycle to identify and address gaps.

### **Evidence-based Summer Learning and Enrichment Activities Grant**

At least \$40,000 for summer time learning activities including:

- Extending learning opportunities for students in the Summer (credit and non-credit bearing coursework).
- Project-based and experiential Learning.
- Re-socializing activities.
- Training programs for staff and families supporting student's extended school-day.

#### **Evidence-based Comprehensive Beyond School Day Activities Grant**

At least \$40,000 for afterschool time activities including:

- Extending school-day learning opportunities for students (credit and non-credit bearing coursework).
- Tutoring and homework support.
- Re-socializing activities.
- Training programs for staff and families supporting student's extended school-day.



# Expanded Uses for Learning Acceleration Student and Educator Supports Grant

This grant can be used to fund opportunities and activities to address the impact of lost instructional time through learning acceleration.

**Note:** "Accelerated Learning Coaching and Educator Support Grant" became the "Learning Acceleration Student and Educator Supports Grant."

In addition to the original allowable uses, expanded allowable uses now include:

- Stipends for attendance at professional learning and/or consultants
- High impact tutoring for students (may include expansion of efforts)
- High Quality Instructional Materials for ELA and Math



# **Expanded Uses for Evidence-based Summer Learning and Enrichment Activities Grant**

This Summer Learning Formula Grant supports research-based academic enrichment activities.

Note: Moving forward, grants in this section will be called "Innovations in Summer Learning"

In addition to the original allowable uses, the amendments:

- Offer more examples of allowable uses, including asynchronous and flexible learning modules, summer bridge or preview programs, high-impact tutoring, support for dual enrollment, structured learning experiences, and/or advanced coursework opportunities.
- Reference the updated guidelines and promising practices featured in the NJDOE Summer Learning Guidance.
- Provide new indicators for program quality, with the inclusion of goals and researchbased criteria for programs offered.



# **Amended Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities Grant**

The Comprehensive Beyond the School Day Activities Grant supports research-based academic enrichment activities during out-of-school time.

In addition to the original allowable uses, the amendments:

- Offer more examples of allowable uses, including development of enrichment activities (project-based learning opportunities, dual enrollment, work-based learning, civic engagement and STEM experiences) as well as tutoring programs and services.
- Include research-based criteria for High Impact Tutoring programs.
- Provide new indicators for program quality, with the inclusion of goals and research-based criteria for programs offered.









### Original NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing **Grant Uses**

### At least \$45,000 to implement at least one of the following strategies:

- Hire staff to implement Tier 2 and Tier 3 evidence-based mental health interventions.
- Contract with a provider to implement Tier 2 and Tier 3 evidence-based mental health interventions.
- Provide professional development in effective implementation of Tier 2 and Tier 3 services.



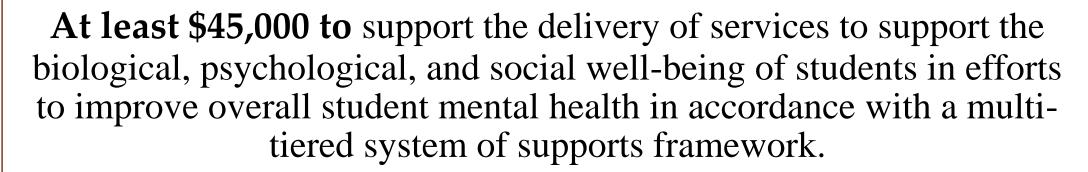
### Plan to Support LEAs to Utilize ARP ESSER

Broaden NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing Grant to extend beyond Tier II & III interventions to encourage optimal conditions for learning which promote mental health.

- Expand Tier I supports and services.
  - Promote the development of positive school climates that promote social, emotional, and well-being of students.
- Fund professional development to build capacity of educators in areas such as:
  - Coaching on positive discipline practices.
  - Suicide prevention.
  - Trauma-informed and healing-centered supports.
  - Social and emotional learning.
  - Comprehensive school-based mental health systems.
  - Provide training to enhance the skills of a crisis intervention team and threat assessment teams.



# **Amended NJTSS Mental Health Support Staffing Grant Uses**



- Provide services, hire staff, and/or contract with service providers to implement Tier **1**, 2 and 3 evidence-based mental health interventions.
- Activities to support educators' mental health and social and emotional needs.
- Provide professional development on strategies to **effectively improve overall student mental health.**



Jill Dobrowansky

Grants Specialist

Division of Business & Finance Services









- Log into EWEG NJDOE EWEG Log In
- Go to GMS Access Select.
- Select 2022 Fiscal Year from the Drop-down Menu.
- •On the American Rescue Plan-ESSER click on the 'Amend' Button.



# Completing the ARP-ESSER Amendment (cont.)

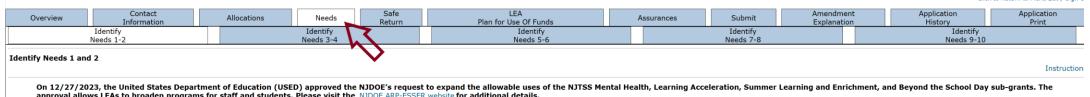
• First, you must complete the Amendment Explanation tab.

				New Jersey Department of Education						
Applicant:	13 1210 East Orange - Essex						_	Application Sections	American Rescue Plan Con	
Application: Cycle:	American Rescue Plan - ESSER - 00- Amendment 1		Project Period:	3/13/2020 - 9/30/2024						Printer-Friendl Click to Return to District Selec
										to Return to GMS Access/Select Pag lick to Return to Menu List / Sign Ou
Overview	Contact Information	Allocations	Needs	Safe Return	LEA Plan for Use Of Funds	Assurances	Submit	Amendment Explanation	Application History	Application Print
Amendment Exp	lanation							· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•	Instructions
								٨١	\	
								<b>\</b>	>	
Select the Applicat	tion Section(s) where changes have	been made in this amendn	nent and provide d	etails as requested.						
On 12/27/2023	, the United States Department roaden programs for staff and s	of Education (USED) app	roved the NJDOI	s request to exp	and the allowable uses of the NJTSS Mental H	ealth, Learning Acceleration	, Summer Learnin	g and Enrichment, and Bey	ond the School Day sub-	grants. The approval
	American Rescue Plan Consolidate		NODOL ARE-ESSE	.K website for addit	ional actaris.					
✓	ARP ESSER									
	☐ Program change	ge								
	Please describe what has changed	. (126 of 1000 maximum ch	naracters used)							
	Reduced budget for personal prote			ls for increased cha	ter school tuition payments.					
	Accelerated Learning Coach and E	ducator Support								
_	□ Program change ☑ Fiscal change									
	Please describe what has changed	(316 of 1000 maximum ch	paracters used)							
	Transferred \$217,912.23 from Ins	tructional Supplies (100-60		and Tech Services (2	200-300) to cover the teacher stipends that suppor	ted an extended learning day f	or the purpose of ac	celerating learning, which is r	eeded because of the learni	ing loss that occur due to the
	impact of the COVID-19 pandemic	С.								
	Evidence Based Summer Learning	and Enrichment								
	Evidenced Based Comprehensive B									
	NJTSS Mental Health Staffing	,								
	· ·									
					Save Page					
l										





#### Amending LEA Needs



approval allows LEAs to broaden programs for staff and students. Please visit the NJDOE ARP-ESSER website for additional details.

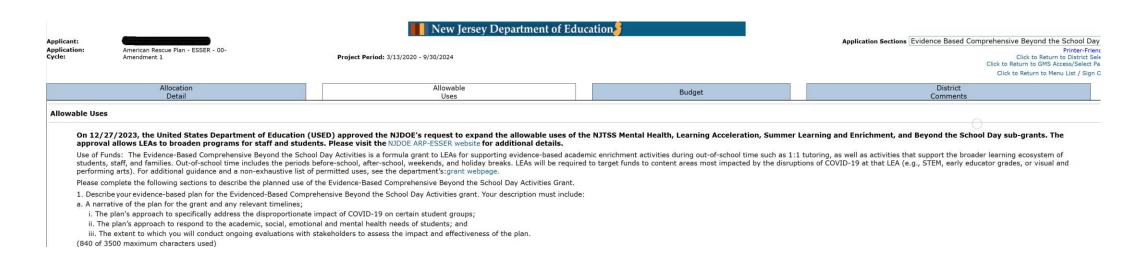
#### Amending LEA Plan for Use of Funds

Click to Neturn to Piena List / Sign C Contact Amendment Application Application Allocations Needs Submit Overview Assurances Plan for Use Of Funds LEA Plan for Use Of Funds On 12/27/2023, the United States Department of Education (USED) approved the NJDOE's request to expand the allowable uses of the NJTSS Mental Health, Learning Acceleration, Summer Learning and Enrichment, and Beyond the School Day sub-grants. The approval allows LEAs to broaden programs for staff and students. Please visit the NJDOE ARP-ESSER website for additional details. **Printer Friendly Instructions** 1. Click on Printer Friendly 2. Right click and select save as PDF in Destination 3. Click Save and name file 4. Open PDF 5. Print





#### • Reminder – Update Allowable Uses









- Two steps:
  - Run and pass Consistency Check.
  - Submit to NJDOE

Overview	Contact Information	Allocations	Needs	Safe Return	LEA Plan for Use Of Funds	Assurances	Submit	Amendment Explanation	Application History	Application Print
Submit										
Submit										Instructions





### **Approval Process**



- Submission
  - After running and passing the Consistency Check, your amendment will be locked.
  - Submit to NJDOE
- Tier I
  - County Educational Specialist
- Tier II
  - Office of Grants Management



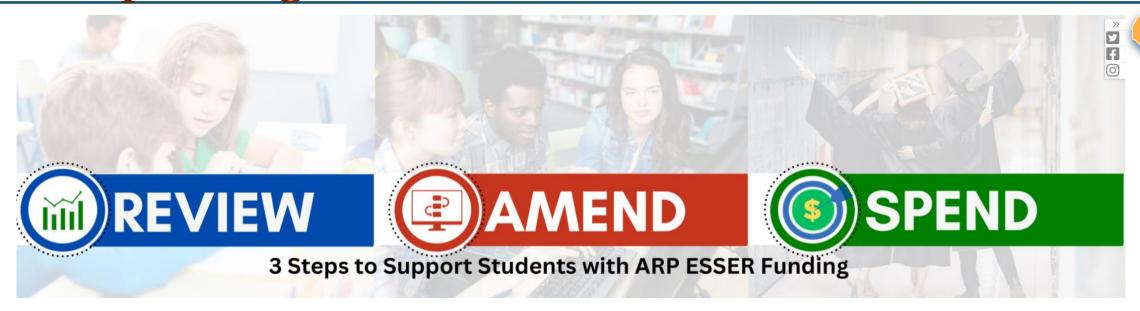


### **Agenda: Spending Your ARP ESSER Funds**

- 1. Review. Amend. Spend. And Maximizing Federal Funds Resources
  - a. Website Resources
  - b. Reminders of How to Use the Resources
- 2. Expanded ARP ESSER Allowable Uses
  - a. Recap of ARP ESSER
  - b. Expanded Uses for Teaching and Learning and Mental Health Services
  - c. Amending EWEG For Expanding Your Use
- 3. Question and Answers



### **Spending ARP ESSER Funds**





We are here to help!

Review. Amend. Spend. Website





### Upcoming REVIEW. AMEND. SPEND. Events

- Expanded Allowable Uses of ARP ESSER "Amend" and "Spend" Training Module and Office Hours: February 13, 2024 and February 26, 2024.
- ARP ESSER Round Table "Making the Most of Your ARP ESSER Dollars: Ensuring Fiscal Accountability" March 20, 2024.





# Thank You!

New Jersey Department of Education Website <a href="mailto:nj.gov/education">nj.gov/education</a>

Maximizing Federal Funds URL

https://www.nj.gov/education/federalfunding/index.shtml

**Email Contact** 

esser@doe.nj.gov







# **ESSA** Implementation

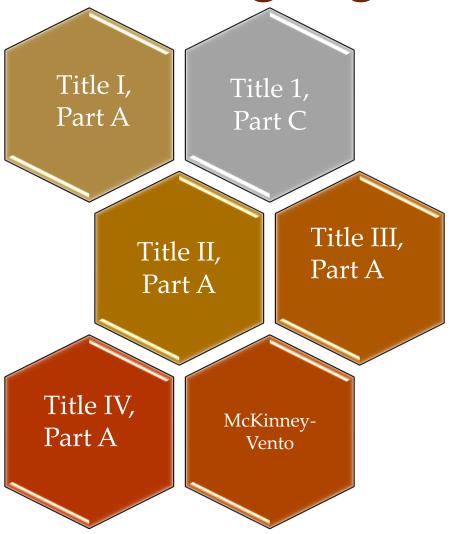


# Office of Supplemental Educational Programs

**ACFFP January 2024 Updates** 



**OSEP Highlights** 



- Title IV, Part A Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Grant Awardees
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan
- Office Hours & TA Sessions Schedule



### Title IV, Part A

### Bipartisan Safer Communities Act - Stronger Connections Grant

### 2023 Awardees:

County	District
Atlantic	Atlantic City Community Charter School
Atlantic	Egg Harbor City
Atlantic	Hammonton Town
Burlington	Burlington City
Burlington	Mount Holly Township
Camden	Mastery Schools of Camden
Cape May	Wildwood City
Cumberland	Bridgeton
Cumberland	Cumberland Regional
Cumberland	Millville
Gloucester	Clayton
Gloucester	Delsea Regional High School District
Gloucester	Woodbury
Hudson	Union City
Ocean	Pinelands Regional
Union	Roselle Borough





# McKinney-Vento (Homeless)

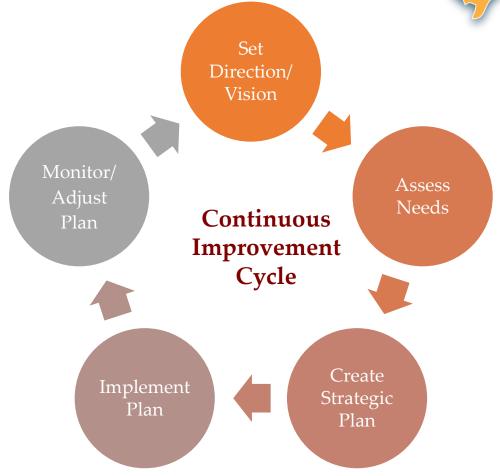
• Statewide Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA)

• Strategic Plan

Determine the number and location of children and youth experiencing homelessness across the State;

Identify barriers to the provision of educational services to this population; and

Identify gaps in educational, social, and health (including mental health) needs.





### Office Hours (OH) & Technical Assistance (TA) Sessions

ESEA Program	2024 TA & Office Hours/Topic
Title III	<ul> <li>January 31 TA: Winter Institute – Chapter 15</li> <li>February OH: Chapter 15 Program Design</li> <li>March 5 OH: Chapter 15 Educator Capacity</li> <li>April 2 OH: Open Questions</li> <li>May 7 OH: Title III And Title III Immigrant Grant</li> </ul>
Title IV - Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Stronger Connections Grant Awardees	<ul> <li>February 1 OH: Best Practice Topics</li> <li>March 7 OH: Best Practice Topics</li> <li>April 4 OH: Best Practice Topics</li> </ul>
McKinney-Vento (Homeless) EHCY & ARP-HCY II	January 29 TA: <u>Winter Institute - Planning to Effectively Serve Students Experiencing Homelessness</u>







## NJ ESSA State Plan Updates

Ms. Diana Pasculli, Executive Director Division of Educational Services

Please see December 20, 2023 <u>broadcast memo</u> for most recent NJ ESSA State Plan update.







## Federal Grants Update

Jill Dobrowansky, Office of Grants Management



### 2023 Year in Review



- 15 Entitlement Grants & Sub-Grants
- 4,217 grantees receiving awards
- Total amount awarded exceeded \$1 billion dollars
  - oDoes not include CRRSA-ESSER II
- Processed 29,811 transactions
  - OReimbursement Requests
  - oFinal Expenditure Reports



### **CRRSA-ESSER II Close-Out**



- Processed 2000 Final Expenditure Reports
- 13 LEAs approved for Late Liquidation for Construction Projects
  - Extends the amount of time an LEA can liquidate funds, does not extend the program period.
- Paid out \$1,092,983,650 which accounts for 98.66% of grant award
  - Does not include the late liquidation amounts



### **ARP-ESSER III**



- Project Period ends 9/30/2024.
- Review-Amend-Spend Campaign has begun. Collaboration across NJDOE Divisions to support LEAs in spending down their ARP ESSER funds.
- Close-out information will be forthcoming via Broadcast Memo.



### Office of Grants Management



### **Contact Information**

EWEG Help Desk
ESSER Help Desk



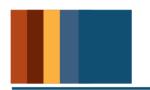




# School Performance Report and ESSA Accountability Update

Ms. Jessica Merville, Director Office of Performance Management





### School Performance Report Updates





- The NJDOE expects to release the 2022-2023 School Performance Reports in early April.
- Districts will have an embargoed preview of the reports two weeks prior to the public release.
- The 2022-2023 reports will include assessment, student growth, and accountability results.
  - These are the first reports since 2018-2019 that will include median student growth percentile data.



### ESSA Accountability Updates





- The NJDOE identified schools for comprehensive and targeted support and improvement based on data from the 2022-2023 school year in fall 2023.
- All schools identified last year were eligible to exit status in June 2024, if all exit criteria was met.
- All currently and newly identified schools will be notified of their status by January 31, 2024.
- All schools will be able to see their accountability results when the embargoed School Performance Reports are shared with districts in March.







### Office of Assessments

Office of Assessment Mr. John Boczany, Director



### **Spring 2024 Assessments**

- The spring 2024 Assessment schedule is available on the Assessment website.
  - Statewide Assessment Testing Schedule 2023-24
- Spring Assessments include:
  - ACCESS and Alternate Access for ELLs (February 5-March 29, 2024)
  - New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA) (March 11-22, 2024)
  - New Jersey Student Learning Assessment for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science
    - NJSLA ELA/M/Science (April 29-May31, 2024)
  - Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) (April 8-May 31, 2024)
  - National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)





### Change to DLM Data Collection



- The Dynamic Learning Map (DLM) assessments now require the Accountability\_District and Accountability\_School field to be populated.
- The Office of Assessments will continue to work with Local Education Agencies to help ensure the data is complete and accurate.



### New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA)

- The department has introduced a new method for handling paper-based tests during the Spring 2023 test administration cycle, and this process will continue for this year as well. Districts administering the secure paper version (i.e., regular paper, Braille, or Large Print) of the NJSLA are required to transcribe student responses directly into TestNav by creating Transcription test sessions.
  - The benefits of this new process allows districts to transcribe student responses as soon as the student has completed testing
  - Improves the departments commitment to providing student test results to the field in a timely manner
- Districts must refer to the NJSLA/NJGPA Accommodated Paper-Tests Procedures located on the <u>New Jersey Assessments</u> <u>Resource Center</u> > **Educator Resources** > **Test Administration Resources** > **Testing Resources** for information regarding transcription and transcription test sessions.
- Districts are also strongly encouraged to refer to <u>Appendix C: Protocol for the Use of the Scribe Accommodation and for Transcribing Student Responses</u> for administration guidance.
- The deadline to transcribe NJGPA paper tests into TestNav must be completed no later than March 22, 2024.
- The deadline to transcribe NJSLA paper tests into TestNav must be completed no later than May 31, 2024.



### **Assessment Resources**



- The New Jersey Assessments Resource Center website contains resources for:
  - Administering the assessments
  - Content resources
  - Practice tests
  - Parent Resources
  - Released items (Digital Item Library)







### New Jersey Department of Education

nj.gov/educationassessment@doe.nj.gov

609-376-3960









@NewJerseyDOE



@newjerseydoe



New Jersey Department of Education



# Thank You!

Remember to mark your calendar for the next ACFFP meeting scheduled for Friday, March 22, 2024, via TEAMS





New Jersey Department of Education



@newjerseydoe



