

ESSER Funds and SEL

What is SEL learning?

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) encourages resilience and provides tools to manage emotions, demonstrate empathy, establish positive relationships, resolve conflicts, achieve goals, and make responsible decisions. SEL programs can be key to creating and encouraging healthier school climates, both on-campus and online. Schools focusing on SEL report improvements in everything from mental health and social skills to academic achievement and a healthy sense of Digital Citizenship in all students.

ESSER relief funds

Money from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) is appropriated to state education agencies (SEAs) based on the previous year's Title I shares, with 90% allocated to those local education agencies that received a Title I allocation. The remaining 10% is held for the SEA reserve fund. While LEA allocations will be calculated using the Title I formula, relief funds will not be subject to Title I requirements.

Key facts about ESSER II

\$54 billion

Total amount earmarked for schools

January 2022

Deadline SEAs must distribute funds

September 30, 2023

Deadline to use allocated funds

Using ESSER funds for SEL

A recommended first step is providing teachers and other school staff access to programs like the CASEL-approved **Conscious Discipline**, which gives educators tools to reach and teach children impacted by trauma, fostering healing and growth. In addition, ESSER funds can be used to create SEL programs including:

- Addressing the needs of children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth
- Purchasing educational technology to support and improve remote learning
- Providing mental health services and supports
- Addressing learning loss
- Retaining and hiring staff
- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and after-school programs
- Any activities authorized under ESEA, IDEA, Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, and McKinney-Vento

Already implemented some of these? The good news is that ESSER funds can be used for expenses incurred going back to March 2020.

We strive to be your trusted advisor in making thoughtful, student-centered decisions. If you have questions about ESSER funds or need more info about your state, reach out to our team at solutions@securly.com.

