



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 26, 2021

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent <sup>KG</sup>  
Finance and Operations

**SUBJECT:** Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III  
Fund of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 –  
MEMO #COVID-19-174

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has been awarded \$3,719,833,128 by the U.S. Department of Education (USED) as part of the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund. The funding is part of the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2.

It is anticipated that ESSER III funds will be subject to negotiations between the Michigan's executive and legislative branches. Before this funding can be distributed to local education agencies, both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), it must be appropriated by the legislature and signed into law by the governor.

Once appropriated thusly, MDE will award 90 percent of the ESSER III funds to eligible LEAs based on the 2020-21 Title I, Part A funding formula, as required by the ARP. ESSER III allocations to LEAs are posted on MDE's Office of Educational Supports website at:  
[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/ESSER\\_III\\_Estimated\\_Allocations\\_Webp\\_ost\\_720112\\_7.xlsx](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/ESSER_III_Estimated_Allocations_Webp_ost_720112_7.xlsx)

MDE encourages LEAs to begin planning for the effective use of ESSER III funds. These funds are a one-time appropriation and will not be recurring funding for LEAs. MDE strongly recommends that LEAs reflect carefully about the best use of these funds, particularly given the learning and social challenges that students have faced during the pandemic.

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USED has not provided additional guidance on these funds at this time. MDE will provide updates as additional information becomes available. ESSER III funds are federal funds and are subject to all federal regulations, rules, and guidelines that apply to federal grant awards. The details concerning the regulations and rules will be outlined in the grant assurances.

Please email any questions to [MDECARES@michigan.gov](mailto:MDECARES@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors