

Bullard Independent School District

Excellence Through Education



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Jack Lee Ed.D., Superintendent

Effective April 28, 2021, districts and open-enrollment charter schools (school systems) in Texas may apply to receive their allocation of the \$11.2 billion appropriated to the State of Texas for public education purposes under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ESSER III) Fund. Funds are being provided, supplemental to all other funding sources to school systems, and will not be supplanted at the state level. School systems should use these new funds to respond to the pandemic and to address student learning loss as a result of COVID-19. The eGrants electronic grant application will be available on Thursday, April 29, 2021.

The U.S. Department of Education's (USDE) initial grant award notice to Texas makes immediately available two-thirds of the total federal appropriation to Texas under ARP (ESSER III), and, as a result, TEA is providing that same amount to Texas schools. Most, but not all school systems, are eligible to receive funds under required federal funding formulas. Specific allocations by school system can be found [here](#).

The remaining one-third of ARP (ESSER III) funds will be released to schools in the amounts indicated on the above allocation document and will also be supplemental to all other state funds. However, due to federal requirements, these funds have not yet been made available to the state and remain contingent upon USDE approving the state plan. The state plan will be developed in consultation with educators and other stakeholders around the state, as required by federal law. Additional details on the state plan will be announced in future correspondence.

TEA has published guidance and frequently asked questions regarding how these funds can be used, including local compliance requirements schools must follow given federal rules known at this time. Guidance resources are available [here](#) and can be also accessed from the Coronavirus webpage of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) at <https://tea.texas.gov/coronavirus>.

While keeping in mind the purpose and requirements under ESSER related to accelerating student learning, TEA strongly encourages school systems to plan for how to use these one-time federal funds expeditiously over the entire covered period. Bullard ISD will seek collaboration with the district's Strategic Planning Action Team, which includes parents, students, community/business members and staff, to begin the application process set forth by TEA.

More information will be provided to all district stakeholders as more data is collected. All decisions set forth by the Strategic Planning Action Team will be published on the Bullard ISD webpage.