



Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Johnny Key, Secretary

Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, Deputy Commissioner

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CONTACT: Kimberly Mundell

PHONE: (501) 683-4788

kimberly.mundell@ade.arkansas.gov

ADE Provides Additional \$23.2 Million in COVID Federal Funds to 39 Districts

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas Department of Education Secretary Johnny Key is pleased to announce that an additional \$23.2 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II funds will be awarded to 39 districts that received limited funds under a previous allocation.

As required under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, ESSER II allocations were distributed based on Title I funds from Fiscal Year 2020. As a result of these calculations, some Arkansas school districts with smaller numbers of high-poverty students received limited relief funding from the \$500 million that ESSER II provided to Arkansas schools.

“As with every district in the state, these 39 districts have faced unprecedented challenges related to COVID; however, due to federal requirements regarding how the funding amounts were calculated and distributed, many districts received significantly-lower amounts compared to other schools,” Key said. “We are pleased to use state set-aside ESSER II funds to help meet the COVID-related needs of these districts as they continue to face challenges in providing essential resources and services to students.”

“School administrators appreciate the assistance as they deal with issues related to COVID-19,” said Dr. Mike Hernandez, the executive director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators. “The federal formula for ESSER funds certainly provided limited relief for a subset of districts. We appreciate ADE for taking this approach to support the districts with these types of needs.”

Any district that received less than \$600 per student in ESSER II funds was awarded a portion of the overall state set-aside funds to bring the district up to a levelized base amount. Allowable uses of the funds include preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19, as well as mitigating learning loss and restoring high-quality learning environments.

Supplemental ESSER II allocations awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief

Supplemental Appropriations Act are posted on the website at <https://bit.ly/2NwTovO>.

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