The ABCs of ESSER
making the most of your COVID-19 relief funds
Today’s Speakers

Cheryl Aquadro
K-12 Vertical Market Director
Johnson Controls

Noelle Ellerson Ng
Associate Executive Director, Advocacy and Governance
AASA | The School Superintendents Association

LeBaron Moten
Deputy Superintendent of Operational Supports and Programs
Waukegan School District 60, Illinois

Chad McDaniel
Executive Director of Finance and Business Operations
Dublin City School District, Georgia
Poll Question

“Where does your District stand on prioritizing the ESSER funds that have been allocated to your District?

- A. Most or all of our ESSER funds are already planned
- B. We’re still considering changes based on shifting priorities
- C. I’m unsure of the status of my District’s spending plans
Agenda

» **ESSER Federal Guidance Update**  
   Noelle Ellerson Ng

» **Addressing IAQ and deferred maintenance**  
   LeBaron Moten

» **Addressing safety and security for occupants**  
   Chad McDaniel

» **Panel Discussion & Wrap Up**  
   Facilitated by Cheryl Aquadro

Please submit your questions in the **Q&A tab**  
(NOT in the group chat)
Where does your District stand on prioritizing the ESSER funds that have been allocated to your District?

A. Most or all of our ESSER funds are already planned

B. We’re still considering changes based on shifting priorities

C. I’m unsure of the status of my District’s spending plans

<results posted here?>
Federal Guidance Update

Noelle Ellerson Ng, AASA
COVID Legislation Recap

**COVID 1:** H.R. 6074, Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (3/6/20)
- Small in scope and focus; bolstered capacity to respond to the COVID-19 health emergency.

**COVID 2:** H.R. 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (3/18/20)
- Includes funding adjacent to education: critical flexibility for school nutrition programs and mandate for paid sick/family leave.

**COVID 3:** H.R. 748, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) (3/27/20)
- First bill to include dedicated funding for K-12 education ($13 billion for K-12).

**COVID 4:** H.R. 266, Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (4/24/20)
- Series of technical changes, along with money for testing, hospitals and PPP.

**COVID 5:** H.R. 133 Consolidated Appropriations Act / Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CAA/CRRSA or “CARES 2.0”) (12/27/20)
- Massive FY21 spending and COVID-relief package that was months in the making. ($54 billion for K-12)

**COVID 6:** H.R. 1319 The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA or ARP) (3/11/21)
- Third round of dedicated funding for K–12 education. ($110 billion for K-12)
ESSER Spending Timeline

LEAs have until 2024 to Obligate ARP Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SY 19-20</th>
<th>SY 20-21</th>
<th>SY 21-22</th>
<th>SY 22-23</th>
<th>SY 23-24</th>
<th>SY 24-25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calendar 2020</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$13B CARES ESSER I.
LEAs must obligate by 9/2022  ~$250/pupil.

$54B CRRSA ESSER II.
LEAs must obligate by 9/2023  ~$1,100/pupil.

$110B ARP ESSER III.
LEAs must obligate by 9/2024  ~$2,400/pupil.

Source: Edunomics Lab
American Rescue Plan

Funding for LEAs (Districts) = $110 billion

How does this compare to other federal COVID-relief funding?

Annual federal Title/IDEA funds per-pupil = +$640/student
+ March 2020 CARES Act = +$250/student
+ December 2020 CRRSAA/“CARES 2” = +$1,100/student
+ March 2021 ARP = +$2,400/student

For comparison, the ARP is roughly 10x CARES or 2.2x CRRSAA

ARP is being credited for its work to reduce child poverty by half.
American Rescue Plan: Additional Set Asides

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act**
- $800 million set aside. Translates into an increase of 8x McKinney-Vento program funding.

**IDEA / Special Education**
- $2.5 billion. This is an increase of 20% in IDEA program funding when compared to annual appropriations.
- Be careful! This is one-time funding. Beware of running into MOE issues.

**Emergency Connectivity Fund**
- $7.17 billion to address the homework gap helps schools and libraries provide the tools and services their communities need for remote learning during COVID-19.

**Education Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS)**
- $2.75 billion in funding for non-public schools.
In January 2021, AASA, ASBO, and other education organizations sent a letter to USED requesting a timeline extension for school districts to spend ARP ESSER funds on school construction and capital projects from Sept 2024 to Dec 2026.

On May 13, USED responded noting that while the Department does not have authority to extend the obligation deadline for ARP ESSER (since that is Congress’ authority), USED can provide late liquidation flexibility for spending funds.

- USED will allow states to apply (on behalf of districts) for an additional 18 months to liquidate funding for all ESSER funding (including ARP) for school facility upgrades/HVAC work (and other purposes in extenuating circumstances).
  - In the context of ARP, if the contracts for these projects are signed by the district by Sept.2024, then the project would not need to be liquidated and the ARP funds completely spent until April 2026. The letter also said longer extensions than 18 months may be considered in extraordinary circumstances.
  - See this updated USED chart outlining federal award, obligation, and spend deadlines for ESSER I, II, III, GEER, and EANS programs.

As we wait for more information from USED about how states can apply for the flexibility, districts are encouraged to discuss this letter with their state agencies, contractors, vendors, and auditors to ensure clarity about the circumstances in which goods/services may be delivered beyond the ESSER’s obligation and liquidation deadlines.
AASA American Rescue Plan Committee

• National committee to provide guidance for schools and districts receiving ARP funds.

• ARP Tools and Resources
  • District Checklist: Taking Full Advantage of American Rescue Plan Funds to Identify and Support Students Experiencing Homelessness and Housing Instability (March 29, 2022)
  • Major Strategies Self-Assessment Tool III (Jan. 24, 2022)
  • Priorities & Self-Assessment Tool II (Dec. 8, 2021)
  • AASA Learning Recovery & Redesign Guidance (Nov. 15, 2021)
Connecting with AASA Advocacy

We work hard to ensure you have access to the advocacy information you need, and that you can get us feedback and information.

Connect with AASA Advocacy

Twitter: The whole team is on Twitter. Follow along! @AASAdvocacy

Bullet Points:
- Our Policy Blog: The Leading Edge
- The Advocacy Network: Sign up to get all our latest information, right in your inbox.
- Legislative Corps: Our weekly federal update.
- The AASA Advocacy App: See next slide!

Meet with us in person!

- 2nd AASA Education Finance Cohort, Fall 2022!
- AASA Advocacy Conference: July 12-14 in Washington DC
AASA Advocacy & Governance

Noelle Ellerson Ng
Associate Executive Director
@Noellerson
nellerson@aasa.org

Sasha Pudelski
Director of Advocacy
@SPudelski
spudelski@aasa.org

Tara Thomas
Policy Analyst
@TaraEThomas1
ttthomas@aasa.org

Kat Sturdevant
Advocacy & Governance Coordinator
@K_Sturdevant
ksturdevant@aasa.org
AASA Advocacy, at your fingertips.

Keep up to date with the most impactful changes coming from Capitol Hill. The AASA Advocacy app offers a curated selection of the most relevant news for school administrators. It empowers school leaders to stay informed, and helps shape the future of educational policy.
Addressing IAQ and deferred maintenance issues

LeBaron Moten | Deputy Superintendent of Operational Supports and Programs
Waukegan School District 60, IL
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>School Buildings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elementary Schools</th>
<th>Middle Schools</th>
<th>High School Buildings</th>
<th>Preschool Partnership Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The Challenge

Waukegan had numerous deferred mechanical maintenance issues that needed to be addressed:

- **Temperature controls**
- **Improving indoor air quality**
- **Addressing Federal timeline requirements**
- **Completion of the District’s common spaces**
- **Repairing pipework in classrooms, requiring miscellaneous asbestos abatement**
- **Accessibility to minimize disruption to the educational environment**

### Assessing Options:
The solution must satisfy:

- **Procurement**
- **Legal**
- **Administration and Board desires to spend the money properly**
Solution

Arriving at the best solution

**Procurement:** Sourcewell Cooperative Procurement Model, via Illinois Governmental Joint Purchasing Act, 30 ILCS 525

*Why:* Predictability, Innovation, Risk Transfer, Accelerated Delivery, Asset Preservation, Accountability

**Contract Type:** Design Build with Guaranteed Maximum

*Why:* Allow for different project activities at the same time (Engineering, Equipment Lead-Times, Installation Window)
Solution

Implementing the Improvements

Overview of Procurement process and needs assessment with School Board and School Community

Cross review with the District’s current capital improvement plan

Equitable approach for mechanical solutions

Coordination with School Leadership
Project Results

- Regular communication with the Board of Education on project status
- Addressing the school district’s deferred maintenance issues and optimizing the District’s allocation of Elementary and Secondary Education Relief (ESSER) funding

$10.6M in improvements

$7.4M funded using ESSER dollars
Addressing safety and security for occupants

Chad McDaniel | Executive Director of Finance and Business Operations
Dublin City Schools, GA
The Challenge

- urban school district in a rural county
- smaller district competing against a larger and more funded school district
- Suffering from a financial deficit since 2012

Addressing Stakeholder Concerns

- contact tracing
- sanitization
- quarantines
- monitor and historically track contacts

Thought Process for Solution Options

- Keeping our schools safe and secure was a top priority based on our Strategic Plan
- enhance the security of our facilities
- the ability to monitor incoming and outgoing traffic
- determine who went where and what contact was made while on campus

2,400 students
5 campuses
3 elementary schools
1 middle school
2 high schools
Arriving at the best solution

**Procurement:** Sourcewell

**Partner selection**

- Long **history** with JCI
- A partner that we could **trust**
- Offered a solution with the **level of scope** that our camera and security systems required
  - Tools to monitor and historically capture contact groups for quarantine
  - Ensure who was going where within our buildings
  - Provide admins the ability to monitor cleanliness and ensure areas throughout buildings were sanitized from their office
Implementing the Improvements

Entire project completed under our projected timeline.

With the limited number of students and staff in our buildings, we were able to take advantage of having larger install teams work throughout our buildings without interruption.

Because of our history with JCI systems, training was very fluid with building administrators and district leadership.
Solution

Project Results

$1.038M in improvements

$117K yearly service agreement

$1.02M funded using ESSER dollars

We are “next” pandemic ready. JCI has put us in a position to address the challenges of security and safety at Dublin City Schools for years to come.
• Usually satisfies competitive procurement requirements for ESSER
• Eliminates Pricing and T&C concerns
• Reduces costs and accelerates timelines due to lower procurement hurdles within organizations
• Enables value and quality selections
• Avoids potential for low bid, low quality contracts
• Select the trusted vendor you’d prefer to perform the work
• Confidence in the quality and delivery of supplier products and services

HVAC Contract: 070121-JHN
Security Contract: 030421-TIS
Fire Contract: 030421-JHN
Panel Discussion
Thank you!