

Action Sheet

MEETING DATE:

June 16, 2021

AGENDA ITEM:

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

**Review and Discuss ESSER III and
ESSER II Use of Funds' Plans**

ESSER III

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, signed into law in March 2021, includes funds appropriated to the State of Texas for public education purposes under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III Fund (ESSER III). 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 ESSER III, and, as a result, TEA is providing that same amount to Texas schools. The remaining one-third of ESSER III funds will be released to schools subsequent to USDE approving the state plan.

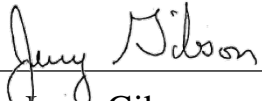
Funds are being provided, supplemental to all other funding sources to school systems, and will not be supplanted at the state level. Schools must use these new funds to respond to the pandemic with at least 20% set-aside to address student learning loss as a result of COVID-19. While keeping in mind the purpose and requirements 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. ESSER III funds must be spent by September 2024. As part of the grant application process, the district must provide public notice of its intent to submit the application for the ESSER funds, public notice on how it will use the funds, and brief the school board on the one-time nature of these federal funds. In addition, Districts are required to develop (1) Use of Funds Plan; and (2) Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. Both plans require districts to engage in meaningful consultation with all stakeholders in their development and must be posted in an understandable and uniform format, translated when necessary, to the District website within 30 days of receiving the Notice of Grant Award.

Galveston ISD's total ESSER III allotment is \$15,696,803, with 2/3 (\$10,464,535) available immediately, and 1/3 (\$5,232,268) available after USDE approves the state plan. The funding period for eligible costs is from March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2024. The Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations will brief the board on the latest Use of Funds Plan. GISD plans to submit its application before the due date of July 27, 2021.


ESSER II

On June 3, 2021, TEA released information regarding ESSER II funds. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) appropriated \$5.5B to the State of Texas for public education under ESSER II. These funds are for the same allowable activities

as ESSER III: to respond to the pandemic and to address student learning loss as a result of COVID-19, but they must be spent by September 2023. In addition, TEA is using ESSER II funds to offset the ADA hold harmless for the 2020-2021 school year. Galveston ISD's ESSER II allotment is \$6,989,223; however, TEA will reduce the District's FSP funding by the amount of ADA hold harmless needed. This is currently estimated at somewhere between \$1.8M and \$3.9M and will depend on the method used by TEA in the calculations.



Dr. Jerry Gibson
Superintendent



Connie Morgenroth
Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations