



NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Federal Stimulus Package Update

Laurie Matzke, Assistant Superintendent
ND Department of Public Instruction

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act



On December 27, 2020, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), into law providing significant funding for education.



The legislation is a combined stimulus and FY 2021 appropriation bill.

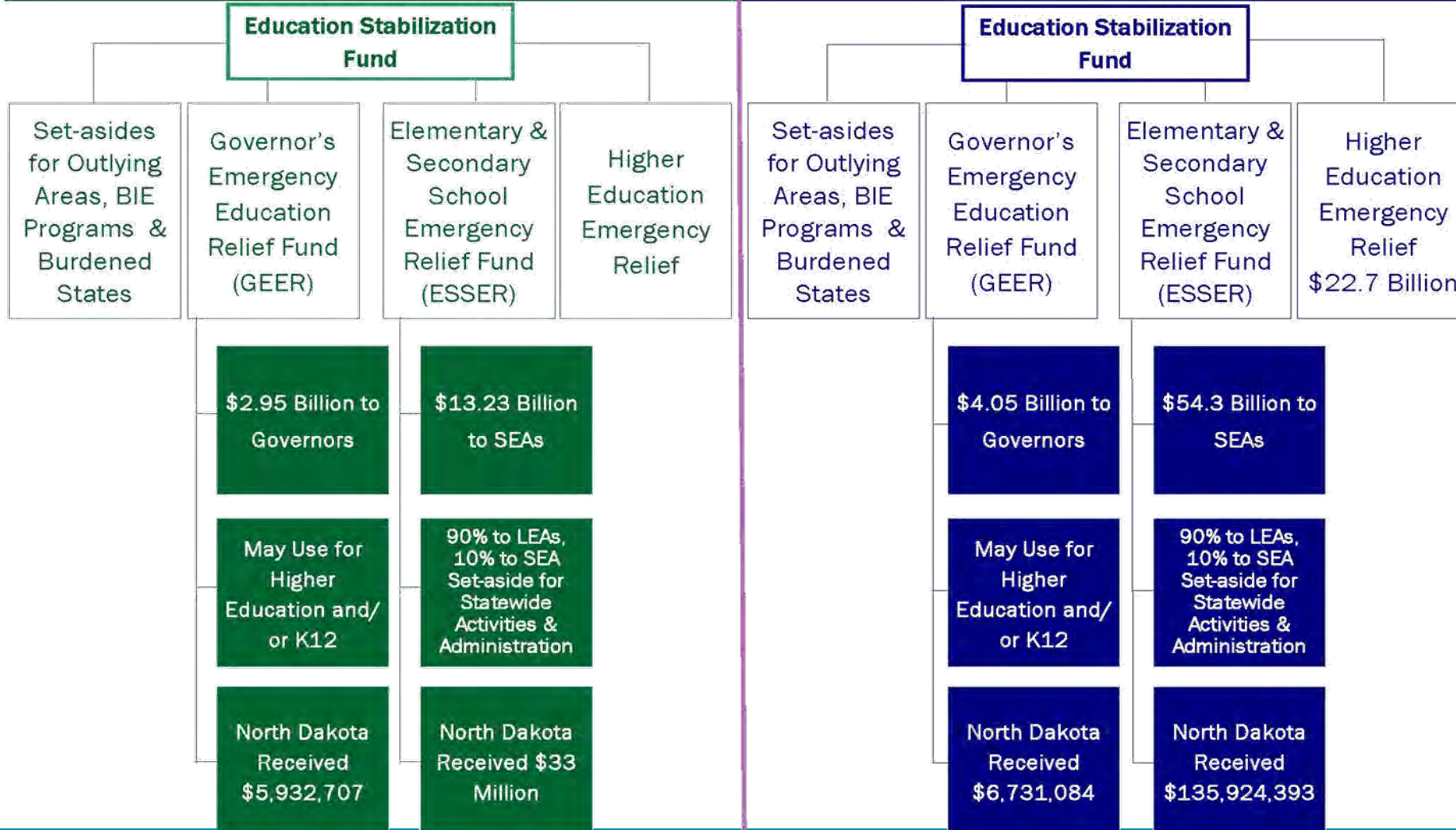
Comparison of Two COVID-19 Relief Packages

CARES Act Passed on March 27, 2020

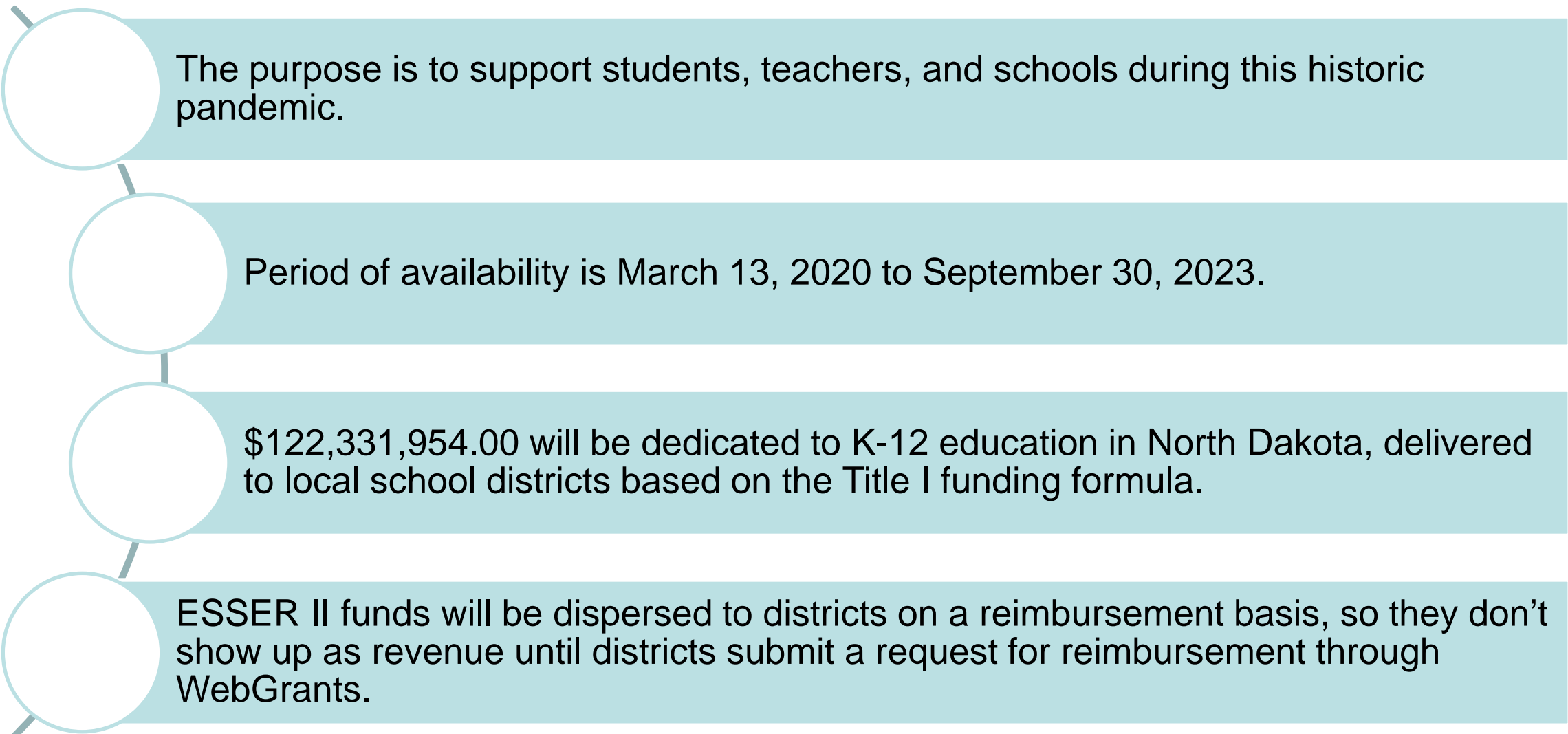
Passed on December 27, 2020

Education Stabilization Fund: \$30,750,000

Education Stabilization Fund: \$82,000,000



Background Information



The purpose is to support students, teachers, and schools during this historic pandemic.

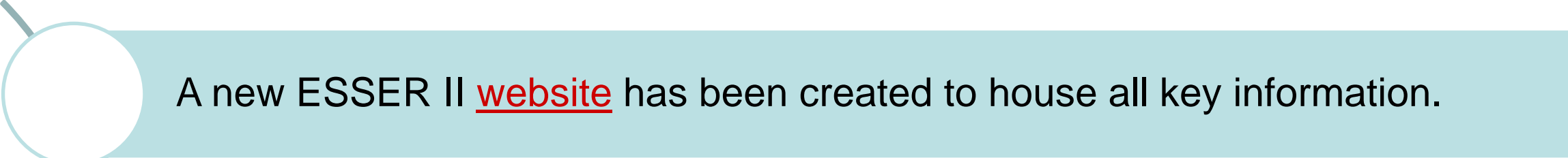
Period of availability is March 13, 2020 to September 30, 2023.

\$122,331,954.00 will be dedicated to K-12 education in North Dakota, delivered to local school districts based on the Title I funding formula.

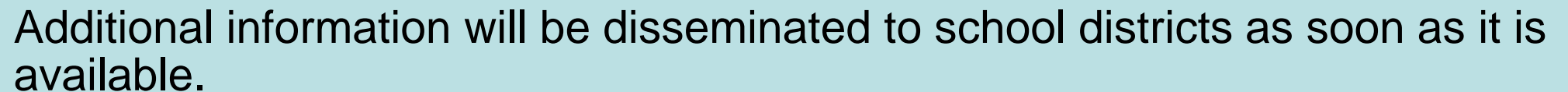
ESSER II funds will be dispersed to districts on a reimbursement basis, so they don't show up as revenue until districts submit a request for reimbursement through WebGrants.

Rollout of ESSER II Funding

It is notable that this funding is being handled differently than the last round of ESSER. On January 5, 2021, the North Dakota 67th Legislative Assembly convened. North Dakota legislators have elected to weigh in on the roll out of ESSER II funding.



A new ESSER II [website](#) has been created to house all key information.



Additional information will be disseminated to school districts as soon as it is available.

Allocations

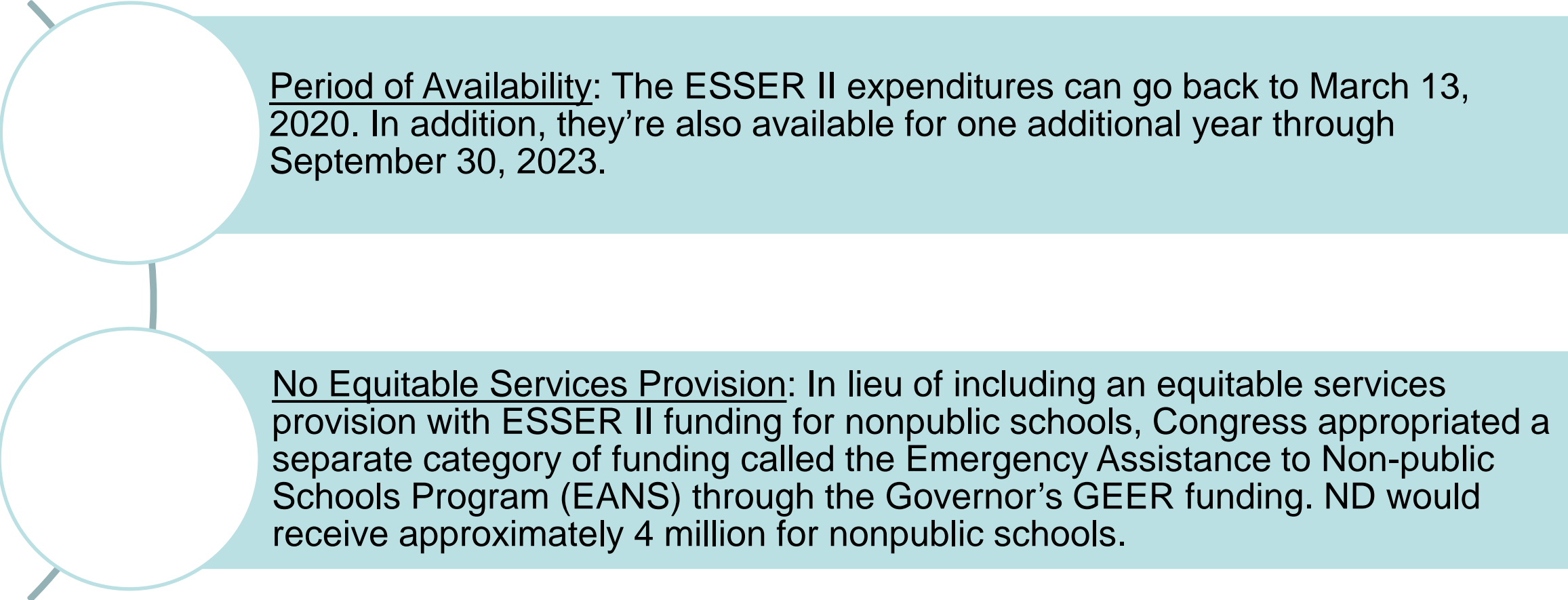


A state allocation table is available [here](#), on the ESSER II website under the “Resources” tab.

District allocations will be posted on the ESSER II website once available.

Districts can estimate their district ESSER II allocation (ESSER I allocation x 3.5).

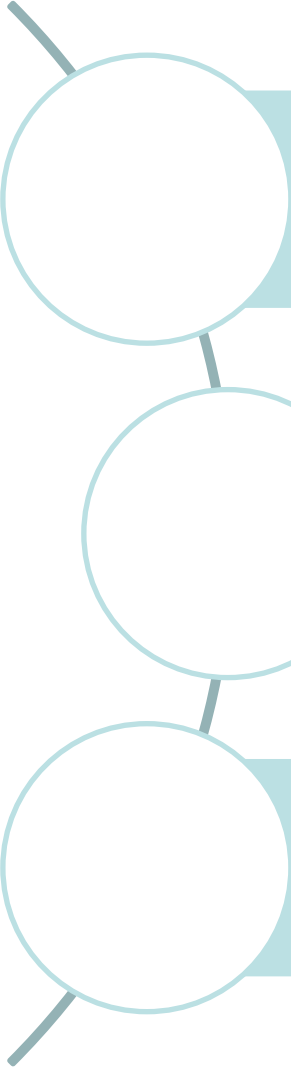
Five Key Changes



Period of Availability: The ESSER II expenditures can go back to March 13, 2020. In addition, they're also available for one additional year through September 30, 2023.

No Equitable Services Provision: In lieu of including an equitable services provision with ESSER II funding for nonpublic schools, Congress appropriated a separate category of funding called the Emergency Assistance to Non-public Schools Program (EANS) through the Governor's GEER funding. ND would receive approximately 4 million for nonpublic schools.

Five Key Changes (continued)



Maintenance of Effort: Although there is no supplement not supplant provision, there is a provision requiring states to maintain support for K-12 education at a proportional rate as other entities.

Focus on Learning Loss: Requirement to address student learning loss with ESSER II funding.

Allowable Uses of Funds: The ESSER II funds have the same list of allowable uses as the ESSER I funding, including three new activities.

Allowable Use of Funds


- Coordinate emergency response
- Ensure preparedness and coordination
- Purchase cleaning supplies
- Educational technology
- Mental health supports
- Supplemental learning
- Added needs of at-risk population
- Transportation
- Coordinate long-term closures
- Professional development
- ESSA (New federal law replacing NCLB)
- IDEA (Special Education)
- Perkins (Career & Technical Education)
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
- Other activities
- Address learning loss
- School facility repairs and improvements
- Improving air quality



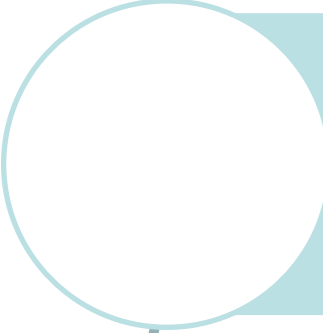
* The three new activities were previously allowable, but have been called out as separate uses.

* An ESSER II “Allowable Use of Funds” document is posted on the NDDPI ESSER II [website](#), under the “Resources” tab.

ESSER II Reporting



LEAs that receive any ESSER funding must report certain information regarding their spending.



Provide specific information if funded with ESSER II dollars: (i.e., Quarterly Report)

- ✓ Method used for distance learning if ESSER funds used
- ✓ Types of home internet services provided if ESSER funds used
- ✓ Percent of students provided with technology devices using ESSER funds



The ESSER II funds must be accounted for and tracked separately from the ESSER I funding. A new project expense code will be provided to districts.

ESSER II Reporting (continued)



Mandatory new report outlining how funds are being utilized to address learning loss.

The public can track how state and local education agencies are using this funding through the [Education Stabilization Fund \(ESF\) Portal](#), a searchable tool that displays how states and districts are spending their ESF dollars.

The NDDPI is required to make information in quarterly reports available on the NDDPI website in a summary report.

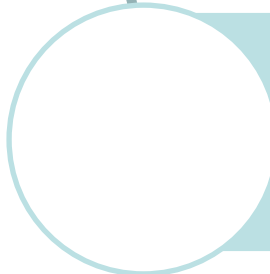
ESSER funding must be spent according to federal spending rules (including UGG and EDGAR).

Accountability

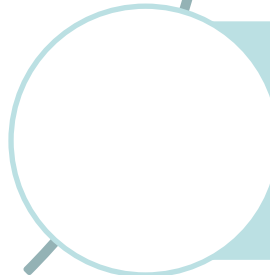
There are certain accountability provisions built into the ESSER II statute:



Fiscal: Process to ensure funds are spent on allowable activities.



Reporting: Collecting data regarding how the ESSER II funds are being spent.



Learning Loss: There is an expectation that the ESSER II funds will be used to address learning loss, including the requirement to report on this topic within six months.

State Level ESSER Funding

SEAs may set aside up to 10 percent of ESSER II funds to address needs for statewide activities. The department will be using the funds to address learning needs identified through the strategic planning process that culminated in the legislatively approved PK12 Education Strategic Vision Framework.



PK-12 Education Strategic Vision Framework

Our vision is that all students will graduate choice ready with the knowledge, skills and disposition to be successful

We will make progress toward this vision by achieving these long-term outcomes for students

- Increase students who enter kindergarten prepared to learn
- Increase students who demonstrate reading proficiency in 3rd grade
- Increase students who meet expected learning gains each year
- Increase students who engage in learning
- Increase students who graduate choice ready
- Reduce the disparity in achievement for students in poverty and for Native American students

We will drive improvement on these outcomes through focused effort within these strategic themes

Quality early childhood education

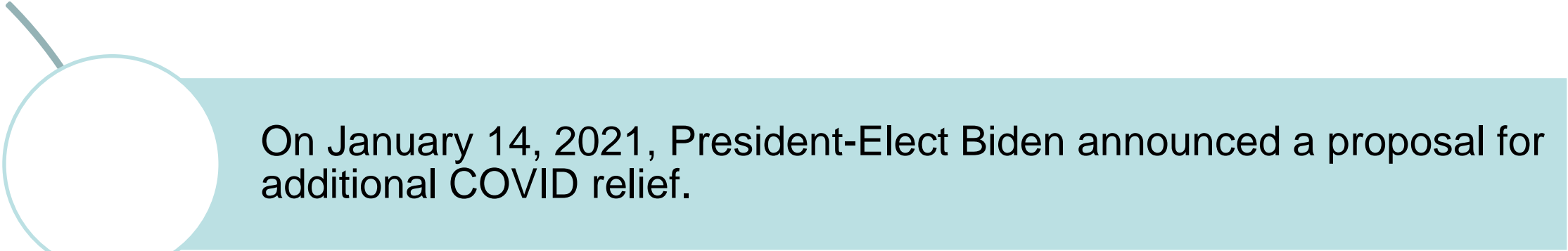
Support for safe and healthy behaviors

Career awareness, exploration and development

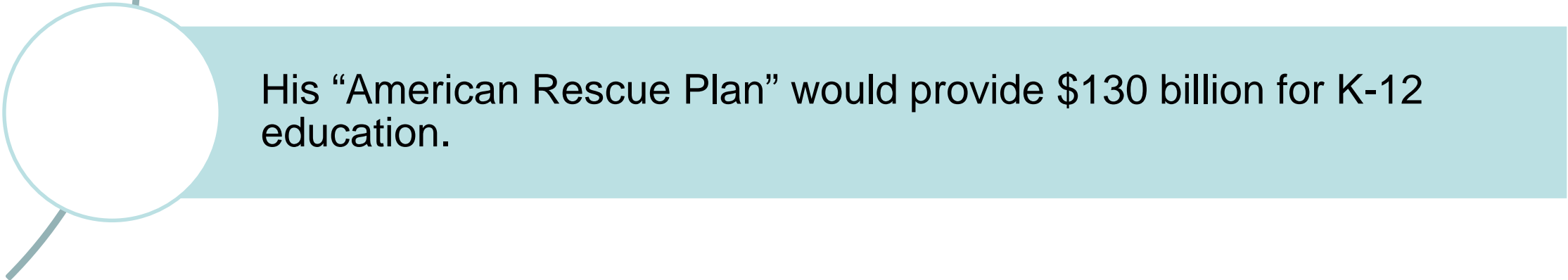
Quality education personnel

Quality Student-centered Instruction

Possible Third Round of K-12 Funding



On January 14, 2021, President-Elect Biden announced a proposal for additional COVID relief.



His “American Rescue Plan” would provide \$130 billion for K-12 education.

Next Steps



The NDDPI will run district ESSER II allocations.

Wait for authority from the ND State Legislature to disseminate funding.

Once funding is released, communicate with school districts to provide guidance and training.

Questions

Laurie Matzke

Assistant Superintendent

(701) 328-2284

lmatzke@nd.gov