AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
Let's Invest In Early Education!
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OVERVIEW

How your LEA can use ARP dollars

Why your LEA should use ARP funds to expand full-day Kindergarden & pre-k

How you can help
ESSER: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

$683 MIL

Total amount going towards education

90% must be given DIRECTLY to LEAs

$615 MIL

Amount paid directly to Local Education Agencies (LEAs)
Funding Distribution
Based on overall proportion of Utah's Title 1 funding each district normally receives

Spending Timeline
Must be spent by September 2023
- Over TWO school years: 2021-22, 2022-23
- Over THREE summers: 2021, 2022, 2023
Funding amounts were approved on Wednesday. USBE is aiming to post the available amounts of ESSER funding for each LEA by June 15. Access this info using the link below.


The info will be posted under the "American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)" section of the webpage.

U.S. Department of Education ARP ESSER Fact Sheet
Address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions

Full-day kindergarten and preschool programs already in Utah are making a difference for kids; these extra hours of early intervention have a great body of evidence showing their positive impact

Address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups

This includes each major racial and ethnic groups, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and child and youth in foster care.

The pandemic has only exacerbated the already prevalent learning gaps that underrepresented students faced previously. We know that early interventions like full day kindergarten and pre-k programs can help address these learning gaps.

Other activities that are necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of services, including continuing to employ existing or hiring new LEA/school staff.

Schools can hire new staff which includes kindergarten teachers to enable your LEA to open more full-day K classrooms.
FUNDING USES

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) can be used for the SAME things as your Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title 1 funds.

This means it can be used for:

- Full Day Kindergarten Expansion
- Preschool
- Ages Birth to Age of School Entry
All students have suffered during the pandemic, but one class has educators especially concerned: kindergarteners, who learn the building blocks they need for the next 12 years of schooling. [Read more on WSJ](on.wsj.com/3f73RJD)
FUNDING FDK
Using ARP $ to Expand Kindergarten

- Hire new kindergarten teachers
- Hire new paraprofessionals to support teachers
- Purchase, build, repair additional facilities for space to expand full-day kindergarten programs
- Pay for professional development for kindergarten teachers switching from teaching half-day to full-day
- Offer bonus or pay increases for completion of important certifications and trainings
"But it's only one-time money"

"We'll just have to fire the new staff in two years"

"We don't want to get our parents' hopes up that this will last"
EXPANDING FDK
Overcoming Resistance

REMEMBER, we have two years to:

PROVE the investment is worth it
  • Use PEEP, KEEP, and other metrics to track effectiveness

ASSESS the cost effectiveness of ALL programs
  • Identify costs that have been eliminated as a result, e.g. less need for 1st grade & 2nd grade interventions.

CONSIDER possible future funding increases
  • Such as Title 1 funding
EXPANDING FDK
Every district is different, but the needs are universal

Strong data from many existing programs:
FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN WORKS

When educational interventions occur early, they are
LESS EXPENSIVE & MORE EFFECTIVE

Young children will be entering with a fair amount of learning
& social disruption as a result of the past 15 months
"FRONT LOADING" FUNDING WILL ENSURE SMOOTH SAILING
THANK YOU

JUNE 16th at 10:00am
Engage with other educators & administrators statewide on expanding full day kindergarten

Contact anna@utahchildren.org for details