

American Rescue Plan: Let's Invest in Full Day Kindergarten and Pre-School

Published: Monday, 24 May 2021 13:23

Written by: Anna Thomas

Beginning this Summer 2021, Utah Local Education Agencies (LEAs) will be receiving approximately \$615 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) funds from the American Rescue Plan. Now is the time to use this funding to help our youngest learners that will need the [additional instruction and interventions now more than ever](#).

In this explainer, Voice's staff Anna Thomas and Laneta Fitisemanu will cover the ESSER funding Utah is set to receive as well as ways that we can use the funds and support full day kindergarten and preschool expansion.

We have exactly two school years (2021-22, 2022-23) and three summers (2021, 2022, 2023) to spend these funds. It is critical that we think big picture about where we invest this money when it comes to education.

We have strong data and evidence supporting that full day kindergarten and preschool programs help improve learning gaps for children that participate particularly for our most vulnerable and underrepresented student groups. This is why using ESSER funds to help expand these much wanted and needed programs is critical and one of the most important investments we can make that will have a huge impact for years to come.

Let's invest in Utah kids by using this relief funding to expand early education programs and further support the value and importance of giving more of Utah children and families access to full day kindergarten and preschool programs!

Resources and References

- [ESSER Fact Sheet](#)
- [USBE Funding Allocation for ESSER \(Will be posted by June 15, 2021\)](#) See American Rescue Plan Tab
- [ARP/ESSER Explainer Powerpoint Slides](#)
- [American Rescue Plan for Early Education Flyer](#)