



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

April 15, 2021

TO: The Honorable Catherine Payne
Chairperson, Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto
Superintendent

A blue ink signature of Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto.

SUBJECT: **Board Action on the Department's Plan for Use of Federal Funds in the COVID-19 Relief Package and Annual Federal Spending Bill: 2021 Summer Learning Plan and Funding, 2022 Summer Learning Plan and Funding, and Devices for 2021 Summer and 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 School Years**

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, enacted on December 27, 2020, authorizes a second round of allocations to states through the Education Stabilization Fund's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief program (ESSER II). The allocation of ESSER II funds to the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) is \$183,595,211. These funds are available for expenditure through September 30, 2023. To date, approximately \$62.5 million of these funds have been approved for allocation.

The Department is seeking approval from the Board of Education (Board) to authorize the additional use of up to \$65.4 million of ESSER II funds for the following three categories of expenses:

1. Summer learning loss programs (\$13.1 million for Fiscal Year [FY] 20-21 and \$11.5 million for FY 21-22);
2. Support services that include transportation and food service (\$12 million / year);
and
3. Student computer devices (\$8.4 million / year).

Approval of ESSER II funds for summer learning loss programs and support services is needed to implement the evidence-based intervention of summer learning aimed at addressing learning loss and to initiate logistical planning for the support services. Additionally, the approval of the use of ESSER II funds is needed for the advance ordering of computer devices for students in need, and to refresh devices for schools as requested. This request is to ensure that devices that are outdated, unsupported, or no longer functioning are replaced as part of a refresh cycle. Availability of functional and usable devices for all students is critical to ensuring access and equity to technology tools needed for learning and academic success.

II. BACKGROUND

On January 21, 2021, Board action was requested for the Department’s planned use of the \$183.6 million of federal ESSER II funds, which included summer learning to address learning loss. Action on this request was deferred due to the Governor’s announcement of his proposed reduction of the Department’s 10% budget cut to 2.5%. The recommendation memorandum submitted contains a complete list of allowable uses of ESSER II funds.

https://boe.hawaii.gov/Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/FIC_01212021_Committee%20Action%20on%20Department%20of%20Education%E2%80%99s%20plan%20for%20use%20of%20federal%20funds%20new%20COVID-19%20aid.pdf

On February 18, 2021, Board action was requested for the Department’s revised planned use of the \$183.6 million of federal ESSER II funds. This plan identified funding for several priorities and needs, including \$65.7 million categorized as “learning loss,” specifically summer learning programs, computer refresh for schools, and an accelerated personalized learning program. The Board approved allocations totaling approximately \$62.5 million for charter schools, the school food service shortfall, and teacher differentials for FY 2020-2021, but not for “learning loss.” During this meeting, the Department was instructed to return in May 2021, following the conclusion of the 2021 Legislative Session, with a plan for the use of the balance of ESSER II funds.

https://boe.hawaii.gov/Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/02182021_GBM_Board%20Action%20on%20Department%27s%20Plan%20for%20Federal%20Funds%20in%20the%20New%20COVID-19%20Relief%20Package%20and%20Annual%20Spending%20Bill.pdf

Subsequent to the February 18, 2021 meeting, in light of the practical necessity of advance planning and ordering of devices, it was determined that Board approval of limited allocations was needed prior to the planned May 2021 Board meeting.

The Department’s plan to address learning loss for students, provided in the presentation preceding this agenda item, includes information on:

- Timeline;
- Summer learning framework to guide program design;
- Learning loss data; and
- Identification of students in need of remediation services including those with special education and mental health support needs.

III. DISCUSSION

Board action is requested to approve the following uses of federal ESSER II funds to ensure that summer learning loss programs and support services may be finalized and implemented, and student computer devices may be procured timely:

| PROGRAM | DESCRIPTION | Estimate FY 20-21 | Estimate FY 21-22 |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Learning Loss - Summer Learning Hubs | School Learning Hubs are designed at the school or complex area based on the needs of their students. Guidance to schools is to prioritize programs for graduating seniors, students who are academically behind, | \$9,650,000 | \$9,650,000 |

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| | <p>students in transition grades (incoming kindergarten, elementary to middle, middle to high, and high school to college or career), and identified students with engagement challenges due to the pandemic. Programs may focus on remediation or credit recovery, intervention, transition, and/or enrichment (e.g., camps-sports, music, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, etc.) programs.</p> <p>Each complex area is allotted \$100,000 plus \$49 per student enrolled in its schools during School Year (SY) 2020-2021.</p> <p>Currently, there are plans for 212 School Learning Hubs (132 elementary schools, 36 middle, 32 high, 11 multiple level schools, and 1 community school for adults) across all 15 complex areas.</p> | | |
| <p>Learning Loss - Summer Start Kindergarten Transition Program</p> | <p>The Department, in partnership with Hawai'i P-20 Partnership for Education, would provide all elementary schools the opportunity to offer the Summer Start Kindergarten Transition Program during the summer of 2021 and 2022 to support successful kindergarten transition for incoming students and families. The Summer Start Kindergarten Transition Program would provide a free three-week in-person classroom experience for incoming kindergarteners with little or no preschool experience. The program focuses on student behaviors and school routines to increase students' confidence and foster a sense of independence.</p> <p>This program was implemented on a smaller scale in 2019 and 2018. This program was not offered in 2020 due to the pandemic.</p> | <p>\$1,790,000</p> | <p>\$1,790,000</p> |
| <p>Learning Loss - Ohana Help Desk</p> | <p>The <u>Ohana Help Desk</u> provides public school students and their parents self-service and chat support for families experiencing issues connecting to Department systems remotely from home. The help desk assists with connectivity-related issues (e.g., network and wifi connectivity), access and security issues, device support (e.g., devices, applications, software updates), and general informational</p> | <p>\$333,334</p> | <p>TBD (based on needs assessment)</p> |

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| | <p>technology support. Hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday excluding holidays, and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays. Funding would extend the existing contract by an additional three months. Re-evaluation of this program will be conducted as familiarity with distance learning becomes more established.</p> | | |
| Learning Loss - Connectivity | <p>Funding will be used to extend existing data plans and content filtering services for wifi hotspots for an additional 3 months.</p> <p>Complex Areas encouraged to assess and reassign/redistribute centrally-purchased hotspots for summer learning programs.</p> | \$1,360,000 | TBD (pending comprehensive plan for ESSER funds) |
| Support Service - Transportation | <p>Student Transportation will be provided for special education students in the Extended School Year (ESY) program per Individualized Education Program (IEP) plans. For regular education, transportation service will be targeted to equity of access needs and depend on available funds included in complex area or school summer learning plans.</p> <p>Cost estimate is based on 2 buses per school for 30 days of program at a cost of \$450/day/bus.</p> | \$6,000,000 | \$6,000,000 |
| Support Service - School Food Service | <p>The Summer Feeding Program is being coordinated by the Office of Facilities and Operations. Plans are being finalized to transition from providing meals during the fourth quarter to summer learning.</p> <p>Cost estimate is based on participation at a rate of approximately 25% of total enrollment for 30 days of the program, for breakfast and lunch with USDA meal reimbursements of approximately 50%.</p> | \$6,000,000 | \$6,000,000 |
| Computer Refresh | <p>The proposed \$7.5 million per year would be used to continue to close the device gap for students, as well as assist with a computer refresh process by replacing outdated and non-functional student devices at the schools. This funding will allow the purchase of approximately 15,000 devices at an average of \$500/device. This will fulfill the approximate 3,300 (2%) current device gap, plus provide an</p> | \$8,401,000 | \$8,401,000 |

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| | <p>additional 11,700 devices to support the Department's refresh program in SY 2021-2022, and similar total numbers for SY 2022-23. As with previous purchases, the Department will need to gather data from the schools to determine the number and type of devices each school needs to replace to ensure the proposed ESSER II funding is used as intended and in accordance with any federal funding requirements. Some complex areas have indicated a need for devices to support the summer programs and approval of the use of funds for the computer refresh will provide students with needed devices.</p> <p>\$901,000 per year to extend the device management software for compatible centrally purchased devices for twenty four months, through June 17, 2023.</p> | | |
| Total | | \$33,534,334 | \$31,841,000 |

Note: Any authorized funds determined to be unrequired for these purposes will be brought back to the Board to be repurposed based on shifting priorities to best meet student needs.

IV. LIST OF KEY ISSUES

- A. Board Policy 400-1: Board of Education Roles and Responsibilities: "4. Review and approve the Board/Department/Public Library budgets; ensure congruence of spending priorities with the Board's goals and objectives."
<http://boe.hawaii.gov/policies/Board%20Policies/Board%20of%20Education%20Roles%20and%20Responsibilities.pdf>
- B. Further delay in approving the summer learning loss plans will delay the finalization of school plans, jeopardizing the opportunity for students to attend the summer programs. The delay in approving the computer refresh may impact the availability of devices for SY 2021-2022.
- C. A comprehensive plan for the use of all ESSER funds will be developed and presented to the Board at a future meeting. At that time, if it is determined that these learning loss programs are more appropriately funded using the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriation of ESSER III funds, the charges incurred against ESSER II funds can be moved to ESSER III funds.
- D. The Office of Information and Technology Services is preparing the Infinite Campus student information system to collect information on student summer learning data points. The Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance will be analyzing and reporting data for summer learning programs.

- E. Summer School registration for Summer 2021 has already begun for some schools. Summer school tuition is \$190 for a one-credit course and \$95 for a half-credit course. The Board may consider subsidizing the fee-based Summer School program, authorized by Hawaii Revised Statute 302A-1310 and Hawaii Administrative Rules 8-30-2, for Summer 2021 and Summer 2022.
<https://boe.hawaii.gov/policies/AdminRules/Pages/AdminRule30.aspx>

V. DISCUSS ANY FINANCIAL IMPACT

The additional ESSER III funding authorized by the American Rescue Plan will provide more opportunities to address learning loss. The Department will continue working on our Learning Loss Recovery Framework and has begun process planning for statewide engagement with stakeholders to solicit input on strategies and supports to address learning loss and other school system needs.

VI. DESCRIBE ANY COMMUNITY OR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Department has engaged with complex area and school leaders to determine the support needed to address learning loss. Schools have mechanisms in place to solicit input from stakeholder groups including the School Community Councils.

The Department has engaged in partnerships with Hawai'i P-20, the University of Hawai'i system, and community partners to offer programs such as the Summer Start Kindergarten Transition Program, Early College, and the Next Steps to Your Future for Class of 2021.

The Department provided an information briefing on the "School Year 2020-21 Learning Loss Mitigation Plan" to the Senate Committee on Education and the House Committee on Education on January 15, 2021. The Department also provided an informational briefing on its "Plan to Address Learning Loss for Students" to the Senate Committee on Education on April 5, 2021.

VII. RECOMMENDATION

The Board approves the use of up to \$65.4 million of ESSER II funds for the following three categories of expenses:

1. Summer learning loss programs (\$24.6 million: \$13.1 million for FY 20-21 and \$11.5 million for FY 21-22);
2. Support services that include transportation and food service (\$24 million: \$12 million for both FY 20-21 and FY 21-22); and
3. Student computer devices (\$16.8 million: \$8.4 million for both FY 20-21 and FY 21-22).

Should you have any questions, please contact Brian Hallett at brian.hallett@k12.hi.us or Dr. Teri Ushijima at teri.ushijima@k12.hi.us.

CMK:tu

c: Assistant Superintendents
Complex Area Superintendents