

CARES ACT ESSERF Guidance

Congress set aside approximately \$13.2 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF). The Department of Education will award these emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. Use this document to learn more about these new funds and how Lexia® Learning programs can help ensure continuity of learning.

Approved Uses of Federal Funds

1. "Planning for and coordinating during long term closures, including for how to provide meals to eligible students, how to provide technology for online learning to all students, how to provide guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements."
2. "Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment."
3. "Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after-school programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care."

How does Lexia align to the above uses?

Whether in a remote and/or classroom setting during the school year or in summer school, Lexia's online literacy programs—Core5® Reading and PowerUp Literacy®—provide explicit, systematic, personalized learning on critical reading and deliver real-time performance data without stopping to administer a test. This research-proven, technology-based approach accelerates reading skills development and provides teachers data-driven action plans to help differentiate instruction for each student. Lexia programs are research-proven to improve learning outcomes required for Federal mandates under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Lexia now has 20 externally reviewed research studies that show significant growth across subgroups, including economically disadvantaged students and ELs. These significant results were also demonstrated across both Black/African American and White/Caucasian students, and in both general education and special education.

Lexia programs allow students to move quickly through the content as they demonstrate mastery, receiving scaffolded instruction only when struggling on a specific skill. This model addresses skill gaps while allowing for acceleration to make up for lost instructional time and/or summer slide. Lexia's research demonstrates that significant numbers of students make more than one year of growth/gain in one school year (or in a year's time).

Knowing that teachers are an integral part of student success, Lexia programs provide real-time, actionable data that helps educators prioritize students by who has the greatest need. Lexia alerts the teacher when students continuously struggle, so while on-target and advanced students work independently and continue to challenge themselves with new activities, the teacher can work directly with students who are struggling in a targeted fashion to help them apply alternative strategies to the concept.

What can the money be used for?

Broadly speaking, the Department of Education encourages state educational agencies (SEAs) that use funds for remote learning to make strategic investments that promote student achievement through long-term improvements in infrastructure and operations so that students may receive educational services whether school campuses are open or closed.

Lexia programs can be implemented in any combination of remote and in-class learning—and utilized seamlessly between the two—during the school year or in summer school. A district's demonstrated long-term commitment to an innovative program sends a consistent message around instructional resource priorities:

- A planned multi-year partnership provides the safety and security of a solid, long-term literacy solution for continuity. A multi-year partnership creates confidence in teachers, who know they will have something that works and is sustainable.
- Data in myLexia® can be seen and analyzed across a district, school, and class, as well as at an individual student's level—no matter where the student does work. Long-term partnerships can provide data for ongoing instructional decisions and during times when assessments cannot be given in person.

Are there requirements?

Assurance on Remote Learning:

The SEA must assure that, when applicable, it will provide technical assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) on the use of ESSER funds for remote learning

Reporting requirements:

The SEA must show its methodology for how it:

- Assesses and addresses student learning gaps resulting from the disruption in educational service
- Determines technological capacity and access—including hardware and software, connectivity, and instructional expertise—to support remote learning
- Supports remote learning by developing new informational and academic resources and expanding awareness of and access to best practices and innovations in remote learning and support for students, families, and educators.

How does Lexia support remote learning and how can we help districts meet their reporting requirements?

- Student data allows educators to check the progress of students working remotely and provides administrators with a measure of progress that is highly aligned with (external) standardized/state assessments.
- Lexia's proprietary Assessment Without Testing provides daily/weekly actionable, norm-referenced data without administering a test. Data is captured in real time and is immediately available to the teacher.
- Lexia values the human element of teaching. Teachers are extremely important in the Lexia blended learning model that combines online and offline learning; the combination of AI (artificial intelligence) and HI (human intelligence) makes this model successful.

When are the funds available?

Each SEA's Certification and Agreement will be processed as it is received. Funds will be obligated on a rolling, expedited basis with the expectation that SEAs and LEAs will also use every effort to expend the funds quickly to address exigent student needs.

Because Lexia is an easy lift for teachers and tech teams, the program can be up and running very quickly once funds are available. Our Customer Success team provides various models of support aligned to district needs that are executed throughout the year with multiple touchpoints. All students—and especially those who are most in need—don't have any more time to waste.

When is the deadline?

Funds remain available through September 30, 2022. However, an SEA must award funds received under this program to eligible entities within one year of receipt of the funds. Any funds that the SEA fails to award by the one-year deadline must be returned to the Department of Education for reallocation to other SEAs.

Use your one-time funds to make a long-term impact. Students gain multi-year benefit from a well-designed structured literacy curriculum that is research-proven, based on the Science of Reading, and progresses from foundational to advanced literacy skills. Invest in a multi-year partnership with Lexia.

For more information about Lexia programs, contact your rep.

www.lexialearning.com