



Guidance for the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) 2021

Lexia®

A second round of Federal Stimulus Funding has been released (CRRSA) and Congress has set aside approximately \$54.3 billion for the new Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) available as of January 2021. The Department of Education will award these emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 continues to have on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. The funding formula is the same as that used in the CARES Act.

The CRRSA Act includes a separate program of Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools for which eligible non-public schools may apply to a State Education Agency (SEA) to receive services or assistance. Consequently Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are not required to provide equitable services under ESSER II.

Use this document to learn more about these new funds and how Lexia Learning programs can help ensure continuity of learning.

Some of the Approved Uses of CRRSA 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."
4. "Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including:
 - a. Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiated instruction. Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.
 - b. Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment. Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education."

How Lexia Aligns to Approved Use of CRRSA Funds

Whether in distance or classroom settings during the school year or in summer school, Lexia's online literacy programs are research-proven, adaptive blended learning solutions that accelerate reading skills development and provide teachers with data-driven action plans to help differentiate instruction for each student. They provide explicit, systematic, personalized learning on critical reading instruction and deliver real-time performance data without stopping to administer a test.

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. These improved learning outcomes are required for Federal mandates under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Lexia's literacy products 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 as a result of COVID-19. Lexia's research demonstrates that significant numbers of students gain one year of growth in one school year (or in a year's time).

Real-time actionable data helps educators prioritize individual students. Lexia alerts the teacher when students struggle. While on-target and advanced students work independently, the teacher can work directly with struggling students.

What can the money be used for?

The Department of Education encourages SEAs to use funds to make strategic investments that promote student achievement through long-term improvements in infrastructure and operations so that students can receive educational services whether school campuses are open or closed.

Lexia programs support both distance and in-class learning and move seamlessly from one to the other during the school year or when schools are closed. A multi-year partnership provides continuity of your literacy solution and confidence for your teachers. Data support for ongoing instructional decisions is always available, including when assessments cannot be given in person. Data in myLexia can be analyzed by classroom, school, and district.

Are there requirements?

Assurance on Distance Learning

The SEA must assure that, when applicable, it will provide technical assistance to LEAs on the use of ESSER II funds for distance learning.

Reporting Requirements

The USDOE requires states and districts to separate reporting on ESSER I from ESSER II expenditures

The SEA must show its methodology for how it:

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

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

- Educators can check the progress of students working remotely and provide 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?

All funds are available as of January 2021.

Because Lexia is an easy lift for teachers and tech teams, programs can be up and running very quickly. Our Customer Success team provides various models of support aligned to district needs 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, 2023. However, an SEA must award funds received under this program to eligible entities within one year of receipt of the funds, which will be January 2022. 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 these funds to stop learning loss, accelerate students' literacy growth, and make a long-term impact in your district. Students can receive a 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.

Talk to a Lexia literacy expert to learn how you can use your ESSER II funding to close learning gaps and boost student achievement in your district.



LEARN MORE