



# **Texas Educators' Guide for Mitigating Learning Loss with ESSER Funding**



**Lexia**  
Texas

As a Texas educator, what should you know about ESSER funding? Based on the needs of your district or school, how can you best use relief funding to address learning loss for Texas students? How can Lexia® Learning’s evidence-based and research-proven programs help? This guide addresses those questions and more.

## The Current Realities Facing Texas Schools and the Country

- Learning loss across demographics, especially for the most-at-risk students.
- A growing need for Culturally Responsive curriculum materials centered on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL).
- Opening schools while supporting learners whose families elected to continue with remote learning from home.
- Prioritization by Texas educators of student learning engagement and motivation, as well as health, safety, and security.

Our country’s educational system has been deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its ripple effects felt throughout the world.

## What Are the ESSER Funds Designed To Do?

Congress has provided financial support through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to support schools and districts addressing the impact of COVID-19 on our nation’s students with three funding rollouts that started in March 2020.

## Texas Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funding Summary

Grant Fund	ESSER I (March 2020)	ESSER II (December 2020)	ESSER III (March 2021)
Stimulus Program	CARES Act	CRRSA	ARPA
Total ESSER Allocation	\$13.2 billion	\$54.3 billion	\$122 billion
TX ESSER Allocation	\$1.2 billion	\$5.5 billion	\$12.4 billion
Minimum LEA Allocation	\$1.1 billion	\$4.9 billion	\$11.2 billion
Available for Obligation*	9/30/2022	9/30/2023	9/30/2024

\*Pre-award costs are allowable for expenses incurred from March 13, 2020.

More information about the ESSER I, II, and III funds can be found in the [Fact Sheet](#) released by the DOE.



## How ESSER Funds Address the Impact on Learning Loss Due to COVID

Each round of funding legislation has **designated allowable uses**, but the scope has expanded with each round. The original 12 allowable uses in ESSER I were expanded to 15 in ESSER II. The **DOE has advised** that ARP ESSER expands them even further to 21 allowable uses, including:

- Investing in resources to implement CDC’s K–12 operational strategy for in-person learning to keep educators, staff, and students safe; improving ventilation; purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE); and obtaining additional space to ensure social distancing in classrooms.
- Avoiding devastating layoffs and hiring additional educators to address learning loss, providing support to students and existing staff, and providing sufficient staffing to facilitate social distancing.
- Funding crucial summer, after-school, and other extended learning and enrichment programs.
- Hiring additional school personnel, such as nurses and custodial staff, to keep schools safe and healthy.
- Providing for social distancing and safety protocols on buses.
- Funding for Wi-Fi hotspots and devices for students without connectivity for remote learning and supporting educators in the effective use of technology.
- Implementing strategies to meet the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students hit hardest by the pandemic, including through evidence-based interventions and critical services like community schools.

## Ensuring Interventions are Evidence-Based

The ARP ESSER funds come with an additional requirement: At least 20% of district funds must be used to **address learning loss through evidence-based interventions that support students’ academic and social and emotional learning (SEL) needs “and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups. The remaining ARP ESSER funds may be used for the same allowable purposes as ESSER and ESSER II.”** LEAs may use their funds for any of the following categories depending on local needs:

Any activity allowed under the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA) including Title I-A, Title I-C (Migrant Education), Title I-D (Neglected and Delinquent Students), Title II-A, Title III-A (English Language Learners), Title IV-A, Title IV-B 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Title V-B REAP (SRSA and RLIS), Title VI-A (Indian Education), Title VII (Impact Aid).

The scope of learning loss is unknown as of yet, but indications are worrying. As reported by **McKinsey**, assessment provider NWEA found that U.S. students may have lost, on average, three months of learning in math and 1.5 months in reading because of shutdowns in spring 2020 alone.



As they plan for how to allocate ESSER dollars for the future, **educators will be looking for tools and resources that meet the standard of evidence-based interventions** to qualify for ARP ESSER funds. **One unbiased source on programs** that meet the standard is nonprofit [Evidence for ESSA](#).

Not many edtech providers have programs that have earned **Strong ratings at both the elementary and secondary level from Evidence for ESSA**. Their analysis estimates that **Lexia’s programs have the largest impact on student reading outcomes**, as measured by the average effect sizes.

Here are some of the reasons why state-approved Lexia® Core5® Reading and Lexia® PowerUp Literacy® solutions for Texas are well suited for this uniquely challenging task:

- Lexia programs are TEKS-aligned and **research-proven to boost learning outcomes** among different student populations.
- Lexia saves educators up to a month of instructional time with **real-time, TEKS-aligned, actionable data** that takes the guesswork out of differentiating instruction.
- Lexia can bridge instruction as schools transition back to having students in class by supporting **learning in the classroom, virtually, and in hybrid models**.
- Lexia **scaffolds struggling students**, giving them the exact instruction they need, exactly when they need it.

## How Texas Plans to Use ESSER Funding

Funds are allocated to each state in the same proportion as their Title I, Part A grants. **Per the Office of the Texas Governor**, funding will be used to ensure “public schools have the necessary resources to help Texas students recover from learning loss related to COVID-19.” Depending on district needs, funding may be used for resources such as instructional materials, professional development, assessments, software, and connectivity. Additionally, the Texas Education Agency has provided a list of ESSER III guidance resources regarding funding and allowable uses. That information can be found [here](#).

## House Bill 3

Lexia programs provide explicit instruction based on the Simple View of Reading formula:



In all programs, Lexia follows the science of reading research, with phonics being a driving force to build a strong literacy foundation and reading success.





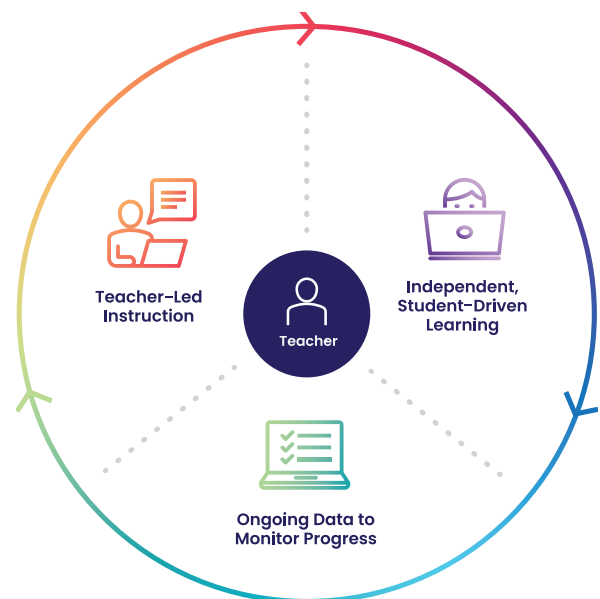
Rest assured, Lexia supports **House Bill 3** by providing:

- Content that is aligned to TEKS and ELPS
- Systematic and direct, phonics-based reading instruction for students of all abilities
- Data and student-specific resources educators need for individual or small-group instruction
- Easy to access reports at the district, school, grade, class, and student level
- Implementation services that provide educators and administrators with expert, hands-on guidance to ensure success
  - » Lexia is TEA approved for CPE hours through our e-learning **Lexia® Academy**
  - » Lexia is an approved TEA blended partner

## Not Just Catch Up, Acceleration

As educators are returning to the classroom and evaluating the realities of learning loss, many are shifting their thinking from remediation to acceleration.

A feature in the **Washington Post** points out, “With remediation, the goal is to make up what a child missed the first time around. Some call it meeting students “where they are.” The problem is students may never catch up. Accelerated learning, by contrast, seeks to make grade-level work accessible to those who are behind through a combination of intensive help and modifications.”



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A **well-designed, Structured Literacy curriculum like Lexia’s** has the flexibility to both **meet students where they are and help them to accelerate forward** to current class level or beyond. If you’re feeling overwhelmed or unsure how you’re going to address learning loss, **talk to your Lexia literacy expert** to learn how you can use your **ESSER funds and Lexia’s personalized literacy solutions** to flexibly deliver **research-proven literacy instruction in your school or district.**

## How Lexia Aligns to the Approved Uses of ESSER Funds

Lexia’s state-approved 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 is aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)** and now has 22 externally reviewed **research studies** that show **significant growth across subgroups, including economically disadvantaged students and English Learners.** 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 state-approved literacy 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 as a result of COVID-19. Lexia flexibly supports each tier in RTI or MTSS, including students with dyslexia, making teacher intervention easy.

### Texas Student Populations Served

	LEXIA <b>CORE 5</b> READING for Texas	LEXIA <b>POWER UP</b> LITERACY for Texas	LEXIA <b>POWER UP</b> LITERACY for Texas
Student Population	Pre-K-5	6-8	9-12
Tier I	✓	✓	
Tier II	✓	✓	✓
Tier III	✓	✓	✓
English Learners	✓	✓	✓
Dyslexia	✓	✓	✓



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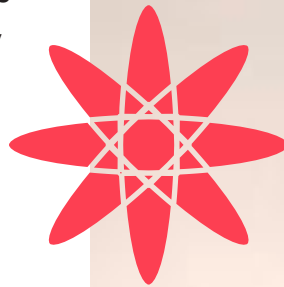
**Real-time actionable data** helps educators **prioritize individual students**. Lexia alerts the teacher when students struggle. While **on-target** and **advanced students work independently, the teacher can work directly with any struggling students.**

Texas educators can **check the progress of students** working in-person or 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 and TEKS-aligned 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. It **seamlessly supports teachers and students** with both online and face-to-face literacy instruction and professional learning for your team regardless of educational setting.

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



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# Essential Elements to Scale Positive Student Outcomes

How Lexia's research-proven programs can help:

## ACCELERATE LEARNING

Provides personalized and explicit instruction, scaffolding students as they struggle and advancing them as they master skills.

## SOCIAL INTERACTION SUPPORT

Recommends offline resources for teacher-led instruction and materials for small-group and individual practice.

## EMPOWERS EDUCATORS

Supports professional growth with meaningful learning opportunities—anytime, anywhere.



## FLEXIBILITY

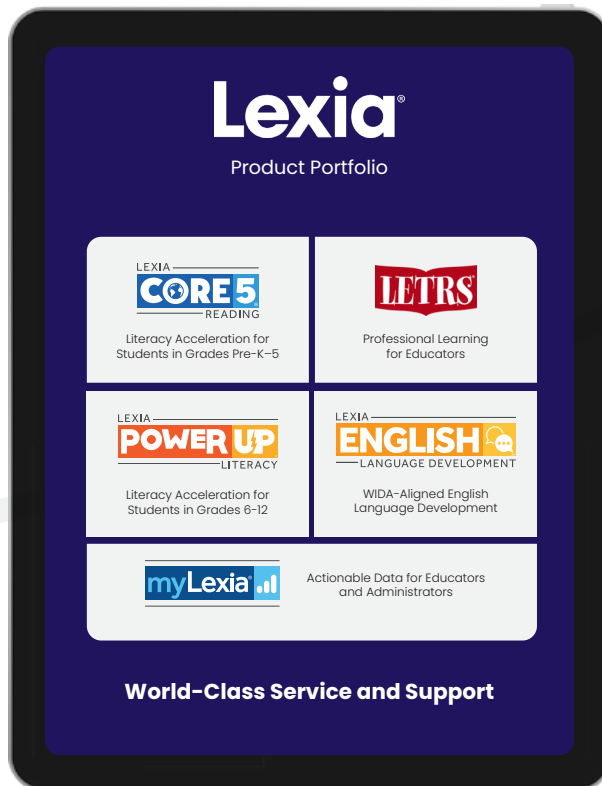
An adaptive blended learning framework supports learning in the classroom to the cloud and back again—seamlessly.

## EFFICACY

Unparalleled efficacy research with more than 20 externally reviewed research studies and STRONG ratings on Evidence for ESSA.

## ASSESSMENT CAPABILITIES

Assessment Without Testing identifies skill gaps, predicts performance, prescribes instructional intensity, and provides next-step action plans.



## Which Federal Funds Can Support Lexia Programs?

### Core5 Reading



### PowerUp Literacy



### Lexia Professional Learning

Funding Source			
Title I, Section A	✓	✓	✓
Title II	✓	✓	✓
Title III	✓	✓	✓
Title IV	✓	✓	✓
IDEA	✓	✓	✓
ESSER I, II, III	✓	✓	✓

## Additional Funding Sources

Competitive Grants			
Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers	✓	✓	✓
Competitive Literacy State Development	✓	✓	✓



For more information,  
please reach out to your  
**Lexia Texas  
Account Executive**  
for support.



# Lexia®

Lexia is the Structured Literacy expert. For more than 35 years, the company has focused solely on literacy, and today provides a full spectrum of solutions for both students and teachers. With robust offerings for differentiated instruction, personalized learning, assessment, and professional learning, Lexia helps more learners read, write, and speak with confidence.

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