ESSER III Application
Q & A

Q: What information should be included in the GEPA section of the ESSER III application?

A: The GEPA section is where districts will outline what policies and procedures they have in place to overcome any barriers that would impede students from participation in programs or activities funded with ESSER dollars. All districts have school board approved discrimination policies stating that students will not be discriminated against based on their gender or race. Many districts are using their ESSER funds for curriculum and materials. So, under GEPA, you would need to ensure that your district would address access to these materials for blind or deaf students, students with disabilities, and EL students that speak limited English. If you are using your ESSER funds for after school or summer school programs, you would need to address how all students will have access to the program, such as by offering transportation. Districts also have policies for students with disabilities to ensure they can participate and have access to activities. This question requests information about what policies, practices, and procedures your district has in place to ensure that all students can benefit from these funds.

Q: Where should staff salaries be coded on the ESSER III application within WebGrants?

A: Districts hiring non-core educators, such as paras or interventionists, or additional staff such as class size reduction teachers can code these activities in the supplemental learning section. Districts paying the salary of core teachers, such as a 2nd grade teacher or a biology teacher, would code this to "other activities that are necessary to maintain operations of and continuity of services in LEAs and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA". In addition, it may be applicable to code some staff paid with ESSER funds to their specific area of responsibility. For example, hiring an additional special education teacher could be coded to the IDEA section or a counselor could be coded to the mental health section.

Q: If a district submits their application within WebGrants but then wants to make a change, can the application be reopened?

A: Yes. If you already submitted the ESSER III application but would like it reopened to make a change, email Rebecca Pollert or Shauna Greff.

Q: When can districts expect to hear from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) on the status of their ESSER III application?

A: Valerie Willis' first day at the NDDPI is Monday, August 16. She will receive ESSER training her first week on the job and soon after will review the ESSER III applications. We are tentatively planning to notify districts of their ESSER III application status by mid-September.