

## USE OF FUNDS PLAN

Congress passed three separate stimulus packages to prepare for, prevent, and respond to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic – The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, and the American Rescue Plan. All told, Nebraska K-12 public education will receive an influx of nearly \$854 million. These three sets of funds are part of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, with 90 percent of funding going directly to school districts. The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) reserves 10 percent of the funding through a set-aside for statewide activities.

	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) March 2020	Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) December 2020	American Rescue Plan (ARP) March 2021
<b>Total Allocation</b>	\$65 million	\$243 million	\$546 million
<b>Flow Through to LEAs</b>	\$59 million	\$218 million	\$492 million
<b>NDE Set-Aside</b>	\$6 million	\$24 million	\$54 million

<b>ALLIANCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ALLOCATION</b>	<b>\$280,319</b>	<b>\$1,068,114</b>	<b>\$2,400,509</b>
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#### 1. PUBLIC EDUCATION

Budget and spending were listed as a discussion item on the August 9, 2021 Board of Education meeting. The agenda is posted in the local newspaper and on the district website. ([www.alliancebulldogs.org](http://www.alliancebulldogs.org)) The meeting is open to the public and input on agenda times is encouraged. ARP ESSER III funds were discussed and the Superintendent and the Director of Business Services were tasked with coordinating a project to replace the HVAC system at the middle school. This is the last building in the district to be upgraded. Prior to the actual board meeting, the potential project was a discussion item during the board reorganizational meeting in January of 2021, the district leadership team was invited to submit ideas, the Superintendent met with the representative from the Alliance Teachers Association for input, the project was proposed during the Superintendent’s address to the staff in the spring of 2021, and again at the public forum held in the spring of 2021. Each meeting of the Board of Education has an open discussion period where all stakeholders are welcome to voice any questions or concerns they may have about any district activity.

## 2. ADDRESSING LEARNING LOSS

The district will be purchasing an evidence-based curriculum to support teaching and professional learning that is centered on equity, the <https://www.branchingminds.com/> effective use of materials, and the vision for instructional excellence (<https://www.branchingminds.com/>). The Branching Minds Support Library includes over 2,000 evidence-based activities, strategies, tools, apps, and programs collected from the most trusted and respected hubs of evidence-based supports, including the Florida Center for Reading Research, What Works Clearinghouse, Evidence for ESSA, Intervention Central, the IRIS Center from Vanderbilt University, and Sanford Harmony. All of the supports have been reviewed by a team of learning scientists and sorted by ESSA guidelines for determining tiers of evidence. The supports include detailed descriptions to help teachers understand what each support is, why to use it, how to use it in alignment with the evidence, what the evidence is and provide them with any materials necessary to implement the support.

## 3. MISSED INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

The rigor of Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) is clearly outlined in EdReports. Additionally, it was highly recommended by Instructional Partners as the program to give us the best “bang for our bucks”. The data that will be harvested from this program and entered into Branching Minds, will allow us to make the educational decisions necessary to drive forward and make the difference for those students who miss or have missed instructional time.

## 4. EQUALITY IN LEARNING

It is the policy of the Alliance Public Schools to not discriminate on the bases of gender, national origin, race, creed, color, age, marital status, religion or disability in its education programs, administration, policies, employment or other district programs.

The NDE developed [Nebraska’s Framework for Renewal and Acceleration](#) to guide processes and focus supports. You can view the guide and find other resources on [Launch Nebraska](#).

### [ESSER Home](#)

- [ESSER III \(ARP\)](#)
- [ESSER II \(CRRSA\)](#)
- [ESSER I \(CARES\)](#)
- [EANS Services & Assistance](#)