Addressing Unfinished Learning with Your ESSER Funds

Identifying, Addressing, and Measuring Unfinished Learning* (Often Referred to As “Learning Loss”) Using Newly Available Federal Funding

What Is the COVID-19 Relief (ESSER) Fund?

To support schools and districts like yours in addressing the impact of COVID-19, Congress has provided financial support through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

**ESSER Fund Legislation Timeline**

- **March 2020**: $13 billion in ESSER funds, CARES Act
- **December 2020**: $54 billion in ESSER II funds, CRRSA Act
- **March 2021**: $122 billion ESSER III funds, American Rescue Plan

How Districts Can Use ESSER Funds

Funds are allocated to each state in the same proportion as their Title I, Part A grants. Schools and districts have the flexibility to use the ESSER funds on any activity authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, including:

- Assessments
- Identifying and addressing unfinished learning
- Instructional materials
- After school/extended day
- Professional development
- Summer learning
- Mental health services
- Teacher pay
- Software, hardware, and connectivity

*While the term “learning loss” is used in coronavirus legislation, we use the term “unfinished learning” because we believe it is a more accurate description of circumstances faced by educators and students during the pandemic. For more information, see page 5 or visit CurriculumAssociates.com/Blog/Unfinished-Learning-Versus-Learning-Loss.
How i-Ready Can Help

*i-Ready* and our suite of educational programs can help districts meet critical needs, including:

- Assessments
- Identifying and addressing unfinished learning
- Summer learning/after school/extended day
- Supporting diverse student populations
- Professional development
- Hybrid and remote/virtual learning

### Identify:

Identify unfinished learning by looking at your students’ learning through multiple lenses.

- **Grade-level placements**
  - for every student
- **National norms**
  - and historical data
- **Ambitious growth goals**
  - to help all learners

### Address:

Use evidence-based programs to support all students in building on-grade level skills and addressing unfinished learning.

- **One-on-one skill building**
  - through personalized online lessons
- **Supplemental programs**
  - that facilitate **teacher-led, small group intervention**
- **Core instruction**
  - for whole class, grade-level reading and mathematics

### Measure Progress:

Understand the impact of reading and mathematics instruction on student achievement.

- **Monitor**
  - student achievement relative to grade-level benchmarks
- **Measure student progress**
  - against national norms and historical data
- **Celebrate students**
  - as they reach Typical (i.e., average) and Stretch (i.e., ambitious) Growth

By using the same assessment tool to identify unfinished learning and also measure the progress students are making, you will get a clear picture of your students’ progress toward established goals and which gaps need continued focus.
Can I Pay for *i-Ready* with My ESSER Funds?

**YES!** *i-Ready* and our suite of instructional programs meet the requirements of ESSER funding. *i-Ready* helps evaluate unfinished learning and delivers powerful online lessons that motivate students on their path to grade-level proficiency and beyond.

### *i-Ready* Assessment and Instructional Programs

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<th>Mathematics</th>
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* ✓ indicates program availability.

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* *i-Ready Assessment* is for Grades K–12. *Ready Writing* is for Grades 2–5. *Magnetic Reading* is for Grades 3–5. *PHONICS for Reading* is for Grades 3–12.

Our instructional programs are evidence based and designed to support student learning in reading, writing, and mathematics. Our flagship program, *i-Ready*, is backed by the most practical and applicable efficacy research in education. Multiple small- and large-scale studies have shown that *i-Ready* has a positive impact on students who are striving learners, students of color, English Learners, students with disabilities, and students with socioeconomic disadvantages. The impact of *i-Ready* on student achievement has been studied by numerous third-party and independent organizations as well as Curriculum Associates’ own research team, in partnership with educators throughout the country. For more information, visit [CurriculumAssociates.com/Research-and-Efficacy](https://CurriculumAssociates.com/Research-and-Efficacy).
Our Programs

**i-Ready**

*i-Ready* is a comprehensive assessment and instruction program that empowers educators with the resources they need to help all students succeed. By connecting Diagnostic data and Personalized Instruction, *i-Ready* reduces complexity, saves educators time, and makes differentiated instruction achievable in every classroom.

- **i-Ready Assessment**
  - *i-Ready Diagnostic* and *i-Ready Standards Mastery* assessments provide actionable insight into student needs. Intuitive reports help educators guide students toward proficiency and growth.

- **i-Ready Learning**
  - Guided by *i-Ready Assessment* data, programs like *i-Ready Personalized Instruction* deliver engaging online K–8 lessons to motivate students on their paths to proficiency and growth.
  - *Magnetic Reading*, a Grades 3–5 print reading comprehension program, builds knowledge and scaffolds instruction.
  - *Teacher Toolbox’s* digital collection of K–8 resources supports differentiated instruction.

- **i-Ready Classroom Mathematics**
  - This *K–8 core mathematics program* sparks meaningful discourse, strengthens understanding, and makes math accessible to all students.

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**BRIGANCE**

BRIGANCE provides industry-leading tools, including developmental screeners, assessment tools and inventories, and instructional materials for *Special Education, Early Childhood*, and *Head Start* professionals.

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**Ready Mathematics (K–8), Ready Reading (K–8), and Ready Writing (2–5)**

*Ready* provides rigorous, on-grade level instruction and practice programs that fully prepare students for the standards in a highly supportive way.

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**PHONICS for Reading**

This research-based intervention program (for Grades 3–12) accelerates instruction for struggling readers. It ties seamlessly into *i-Ready Assessment* to identify students in need of support.
What We Know about Unfinished Learning in 2020–2021

In the first large-scale study of midyear student learning, new Curriculum Associates research shows more students have unfinished learning and fewer students are ready for grade-level work this school year than in prior school years in both reading and mathematics. The students who are most affected are students in elementary school, students attending schools that serve a higher proportion of Black and Latino students, and students attending schools in lower-income zip codes.

Want to learn more?
CurriculumAssociates.com/UnfinishedLearning