



Pennsylvania Educators: Your Essential Guide to ESSER Funding

Find out what it is, how much is available, and ways to use it to
identify and address unfinished learning





Contents

Identify and Address Learning Loss with <i>i-Ready</i>	4
The Current Situation in Pennsylvania Schools.....	5
Questions Pennsylvania Educators Need to Ask	6
How much ESSER funding did Pennsylvania receive?	6
How are these funds being distributed amongst Pennsylvania schools?.....	6
What can the ESSER funding be used for in Pennsylvania?	6
What is the greatest teaching and learning challenge facing your district?.....	6
How can use of the ESSER funding help solve those challenges?	6
How to Get Started	8



Built for Pennsylvania Standards



i-Ready is built to provide educators with fingertip-accessible data to inform instruction and monitor growth. With *i-Ready*, Pennsylvania educators can:

- Use *i-Ready* as a locally selected assessment for Grade 3 reading and Grade 7 mathematics on the Future Ready PA Index
 - See growth and proficiency scores aligned to Pennsylvania standards
 - Pinpoint individual student achievement to specific Pennsylvania standards
 - Access real-time data from *i-Ready Personalized Instruction* to see how students are advancing based on ESSA subgroup designations
- Understand what growth is required to attain proficiency—*i-Ready*'s Typical and Stretch Growth measures complement Pennsylvania's Value-Added Growth Model and will assist teachers in meeting the state's calculations for growth.



Successful Statewide

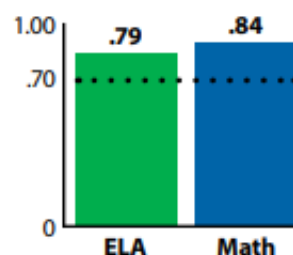
MORE THAN
162,000 STUDENTS
ACROSS
900+ SCHOOLS

Backed by Research

Research conducted in partnership with the Educational Research Institute of America, using a large sample, found the *i-Ready Diagnostic* is highly correlated with Pennsylvania's English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics 3–8 assessment.

Average Overall Correlations for the Spring *i-Ready Diagnostic* and 2018 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)

Assessment correlations above .70 are considered strong evidence by the NCII.



In a 2018 study of more than 5,000 students' test results, *i-Ready* consistently exceeds the .70 benchmark.

Data from the 2017–2018 *i-Ready* and PSSA Linking Study



Identify and Address Learning Loss with *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*:

- Provides user-friendly dashboards and clear reports with **actionable data** that give teachers a foundational understanding of students' strengths and areas of need
- Enables educators to confidently determine each student's **on-grade level proficiency** based on state and national standards
- Allows educators to attend to students' unfinished learning while at the same time ensuring instruction of grade-level standards with a **Prerequisites Report** that provides specific information about which students need additional support with critical prerequisite skills
- Delivers online lessons that provide **tailored instruction and practice** for each student to accelerate growth
- Supports teachers with **in-the-moment resources** for remediation and reteaching at individualized, small group, and whole class levels of instruction
- Includes **dedicated service and support** at every step of the implementation journey

“*[i-Ready]* is a really great product to not only fill in gaps but to also accelerate students.”

Gregory Lesher
Supervisor K-12 STEM
Quakertown Community School District



The Current Situation in Pennsylvania Schools

Limited supplies of PPE in schools.

Amplified learning loss across demographics.

Shifting instructional model guidelines depending on the level of community transmission and incidence rate.

We all know there are numerous challenges impacting schools throughout the country because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To address the ongoing impact, Congress has provided financial support for districts and schools through the **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)**:

- In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act included \$13 billion in ESSER funds.
- In December 2020, an additional \$54 billion for ESSER II was allocated through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act.
- In March 2021, another \$122 billion for ESSER III was allocated through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.
- ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III funds have been allocated to each state in the same proportion as their Title I, Part A grants.

As an educator in Pennsylvania, what should you know about the recent developments in ESSER funding? How can you best use this funding to address pandemic-related challenges like learning loss? How can assessment tools like *i-Ready* help? In this guide, we'll answer these questions and more.



Questions Pennsylvania Educators Need to Ask

How much ESSER funding did Pennsylvania receive?

Pennsylvania schools received \$523.8 million in emergency ESSER I funding, another \$2.2 billion as part of the ESSER II funding, and an additional \$4.9 billion as part of the ESSER III funding.

How are these funds being distributed amongst Pennsylvania schools?

District allocations for ESSER I funding by Local Education Agency (LEA) have been published [here](#).

District allocations for ESSER II funding by Local Education Agency (LEA) have been published [here](#).

What can the ESSER funding be used for in Pennsylvania?

Districts have the flexibility to use this emergency spending in a multitude of ways, including for assessments, instructional materials, software, hardware, professional development, connectivity, teacher pay, and summer school activities.

Additional information about uses for ESSER funding can be found on the [Pennsylvania Department of Education website](#).

What is the greatest teaching and learning challenge facing your district?

In addition to the urgent support needed for healthcare concerns associated with school reopening and preventing further virus transmission, we've heard from educational leaders and school administrators across the country about the specific teaching and learning challenges facing their districts. These include how to understand and combat the effects of **unfinished learning** due to the pandemic and how to support teachers in preparing students for **grade-level instruction** when students have a diverse set of needs and skillsets. It's evident that teachers need the support of tools that will enable them to quickly and easily assess student's learning, set achievable growth targets, and teach with linked, targeted instruction, all in one platform for ease of use.

How can use of the ESSER funding help solve those challenges?

Adaptive assessments are a critical tool in diagnosing and addressing learning loss, and this increase in ESSER funding provides an opportunity to re-evaluate what tools your district is currently using to see if they adequately meet the unprecedented demands of this time.



It's important to look for an assessment tool that provides ambitious **stretch goal measures** to show a path to grade-level proficiency for all students, as well as assessment data that is easy to understand. Look for assessments that help teachers quickly identify prerequisite skills needed in advance of teaching grade-level instruction, and ones that generate student grouping reports based on learning needs.

Your assessment tool should also connect your students' data directly to **instructional resources and lessons**. Look for programs that deliver online lessons that are tailored for each student to achieve growth, and in-the-moment resources that educators can use for the purpose of remediation and reteaching at individualized, small group, and whole class levels of instruction.

In this time of constant change, it's also important to look for an assessment provider that is as much a partner in your district's success as you are. Consider whether your assessment provider offers **professional development** that supports your teachers in how to use the tool both remotely and in the classroom.

How to Get Started

Learn more from the *i-Ready* Grants Team!
Please visit curriculumassociates.com/grants-and-funding/esser

