



# Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief III (ESSER III) Fund Grant

RASP/Federal Grant Programs Unit

May 2021



# Welcome to the ARP Act ESSER III Fund Webinar

- Housekeeping items before we begin:
  - The slides will be emailed later this evening to all registrants.
  - To preserve bandwidth, your video and microphone are turned off.
  - Use the Q & A feature at the bottom of the screen to ask questions (not Chat feature).



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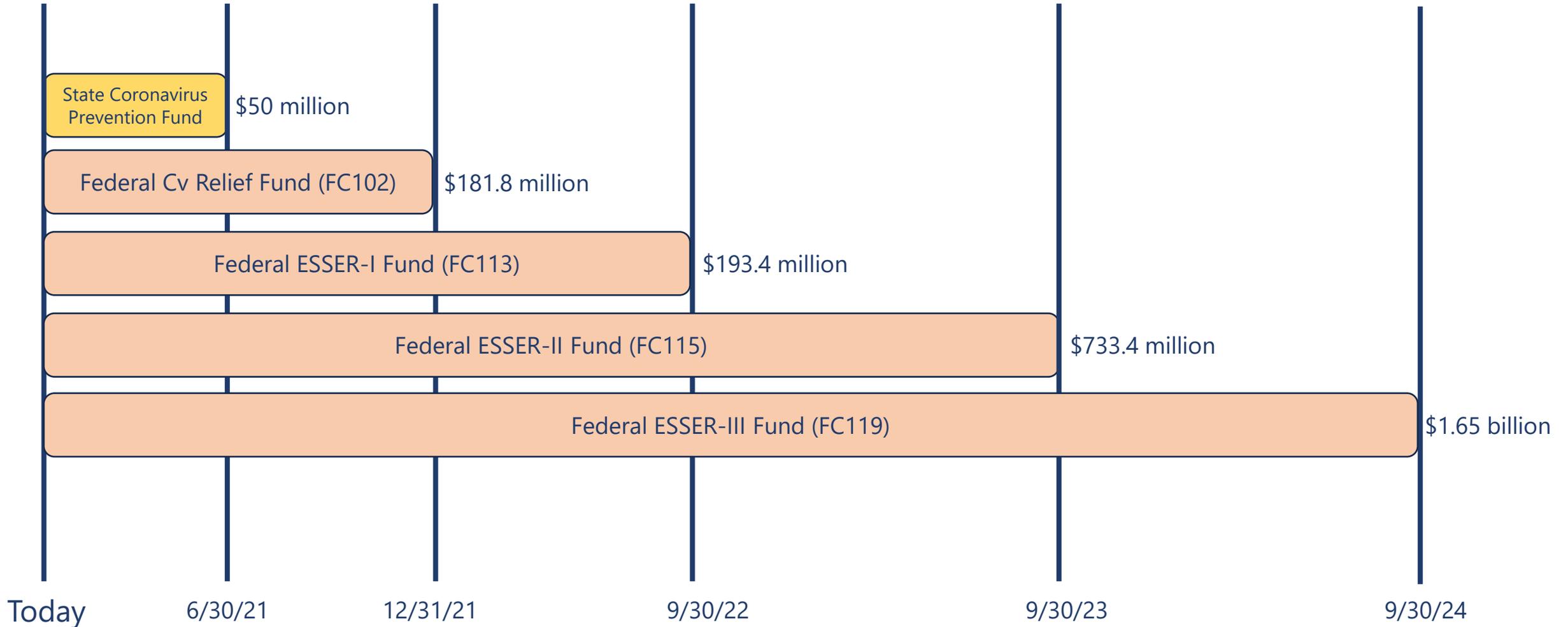
02 Deep dive into ESSER III

Some things Old

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03 Application walk-through

# Relief Funding – Sequencing of ~\$2.8 billion over 3.5 years



01

# ESSER I, II, and III: General Information

# CARES Act: ESSER I grant

- Emergency funding to address impact of COVID-19
  - Purpose: prevent, prepare for, and respond to impacts of COVID-19
- Emergency declared: March 13, 2020
- Signed into law: March 27, 2020
- ESSER I Fund (Fund code 113)
  - \$193.4 million
  - Distributed based on FY20 Title IA share of total
  - Flexible spending; equitable participation applies
  - ESSER funds are not subject to supplement, not supplant rules
  - District use of funds data reporting requirement



# CRRSA Act: ESSER II grant

- Additional emergency funding to address impact of COVID-19  
Signed into law: December 27, 2020
- ESSER II Fund (Fund Code 115)
  - \$733.4 million to LEAs; Commissioner used discretionary \$ to get all LEAs up to \$75,841; plus an additional \$10,000 for mental health supports
  - Distributed based on FY21 Title IA share of total, but are not Title I funds
  - Similar application and process to ESSER I
  - Like ESSER I, ESSER II funds are **not** subject to supplement, not supplant rules
  - Equitable participation of private schools **does not** apply to this grant
  - District use of funds data reporting requirement



# Deadline and fund availability for ESSER II

- Two options/deadlines

- Apply for FY21 grant – due 3/31/21 **(107/399 or 27% applied)**

- Use if intend to obligate any funds in FY21 (this school year)
    - Initial payment will be received soon after approval of application
    - Balance of unclaimed/unspent funds will roll into next fiscal year (FY22)
    - Additional extension of funds into **FY23** 7/1/22 - 6/30/23 (Yr 3) and **FY24** 7/1/23-9/30/23 (Yr 4)
  - OR -

- Apply for FY22 grant – **due 7/30/21** (31 of remaining 292 applied)

- Funding Opportunity is now available in EdGrants
    - Period of availability is 7/1/21 (or date of approval if later)
    - Additional extension of funds into **FY23** 7/1/22 - 6/30/23 (Yr 2) and **FY24** 7/1/23 - 9/30/23 (Yr 3)

# The “American Rescue Plan Act” (ARP)

- President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act into law on Thursday March 11
- Safely Reopen Schools ASAP
  - Open majority of K-8 Schools this spring
- \$122 billion to K-12 schools, distributed via FY21 Title I formula
  - 9.2 times as much as CARES ESSER I (\$13.2 billion)
  - **2.2** times as much as CRRSA ESSER II (\$54 billion)
- District use and impact of funds data reporting requirement

# The “American Rescue Plan Act” (ARP) - Massachusetts

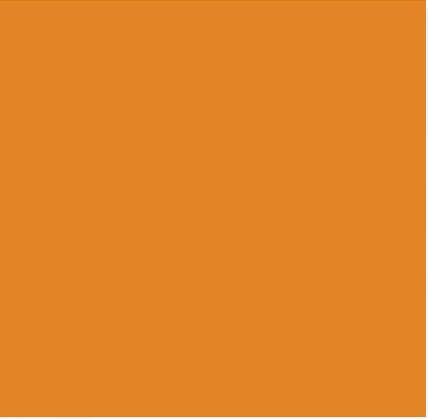
- ARP ESSER III (~\$1.65 billion to LEAs; based on FY21 Title I)
  - Available now (Fund Code 119)
  - Apply any time between now and October 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Earliest start date is July 1, 2021 (however, you may spend on expenses dating back to March 13, 2020)
  - Commissioner used \$10.5 million in discretionary funds to get all districts up to at least \$170,328

02

## Deep dive into ESSER III

# The “American Rescue Plan Act” (ARP) - Massachusetts

- ESSER III is going to be a bigger lift than ESSERs I and II (both for DESE and for districts)
- Somethings old
  1. Almost identical allowable uses
  2. Not subject to supplement, not supplant
  3. Equitable services for private schools do not apply for this grant
- Somethings new
  1. Must have two plans (Return to in-person learning plan; Implementation plan)
  2. 20% of funds must be used to address learning loss (part of Implementation plan)
  3. Capital Expenditure Form for capital costs over \$30,000
  4. Maintenance of Equity provision



Somethings Old

# Something Old: How can LEAs use the funds?

	ESSER-I	ESSER-II	ESSER-III
Anything authorized in ESSA, IDEA, AEFLA, Perkins, McKinney-Vento	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coordination of COVID preparedness and response efforts	Yes	Yes	Yes
Activities for low-income, SWD, EL, racial and ethnic minorities, homeless, and foster	Yes	Yes	Yes
Developing and implementing procedures and systems	Yes	Yes	Yes
Training and PD on minimizing spread of infectious diseases	Yes	Yes	Yes
Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean	Yes	Yes	Yes
Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities, incl. meals	Yes	Yes	Yes
Technology for students and staff	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mental health services and supports	Yes	Yes	Yes
Summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs	Yes	Yes	Yes
Providing principals with resources necessary to address individual needs of schools	Yes	Yes	Yes*
Implementing public health protocols	Yes*	Yes*	Yes
Addressing learning loss (assessments, evidence-based activities, parents, attendance)	Yes*	Yes	Yes
School facility repairs to reduce risk of virus transmission	Yes*	Yes	Yes
Air quality improvements	Yes*	Yes	Yes
Other activities that are necessary to maintain operation and keep staff employed	Yes	Yes	Yes

\* = Not explicit in statute, but still allowable

# Something Old: No requirement that spending be supplemental

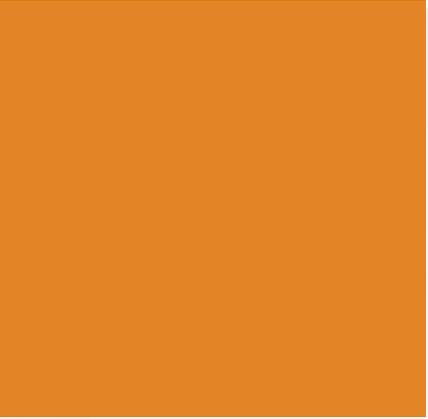
- No supplement not supplant requirements
- **BEWARE:** Other federal entitlement grants (IDEA in particular) still require maintenance of effort
  - Make sure to hit your state/local level of effort requirements
  - **Bottom line: if you're going to supplant state/local funds with ESSER funds, be very careful/thoughtful about it.**



# Something Old: Equitable Services

- **ESSER II and III – no equitable services**
  - Congress created separate programs to be administered by DESE (EANS-I and EANS-II)
- Equitable Services are still required for the following federal grants:
  - ESSER I
  - ESSA (Titles I, IIA, III, IV) & Title III Immigrant Grant
  - IDEA (240 and 262)





Some things New

# Something (sort of) New: Plan #1: Back to School In-Person plan

- Within 30 days of receiving ESSER III funding, districts must publish on their public websites a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.
- The plan must be (or must have been) available for public comment, which was considered in plan development.

# Something (sort of) New: Plan #1: Back to School In-Person plan

- Districts may use their District Reopening Plans submitted to DESE last summer (or another plan that the district has in place), if it has:
  - Been published on your district website
  - Incorporated public comment
- Districts must **revisit** their existing plan every 6 months and revise as needed, including considering changes to CDC guidance (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/community/schools-childcare/index.html>)



## Something New: Plan #2: Implementation plan (grant app)

- The ESSER III grant application itself, fully and thoughtfully completed with the requisite stakeholder input, will serve as the district's implementation plan

## Something New: Plan #2: Implementation plan (grant app)

In the implementation plan (grant application), districts will describe how they will use ESSER III funds to:

- Combat loss of instructional time/learning loss by using evidence-based practices (must reserve at least 20% of funds for this)
- Use evidence-based practices to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students, especially those groups most impacted by the pandemic, and other spending and mitigation/prevention information.
- Address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups

## Something New: Plan #2: Implementation plan (grant app)

- DESE will populate the application with popular, effective, evidence-based practices that districts can choose from
- Districts may, of course, input their own evidence-based practices.
- You will be asked how you will track progress on each practice using data (helpful resource: [How do we Know Initiative](#)). You will eventually need to report on progress to DESE so be sure to include data sources from the beginning.

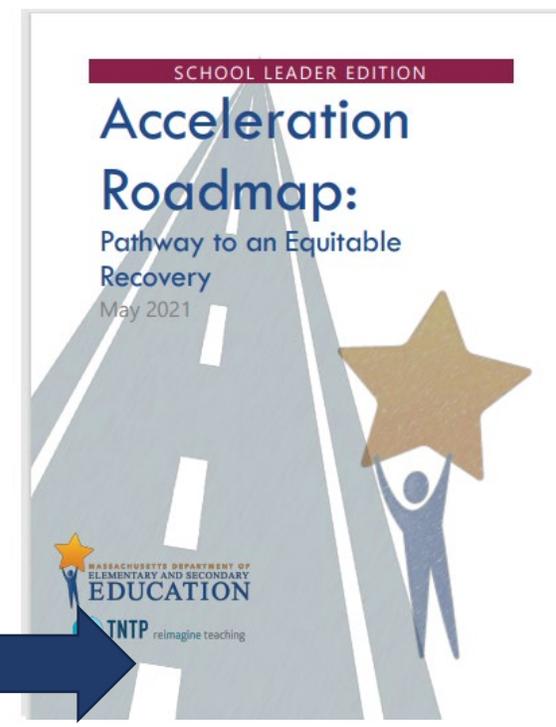
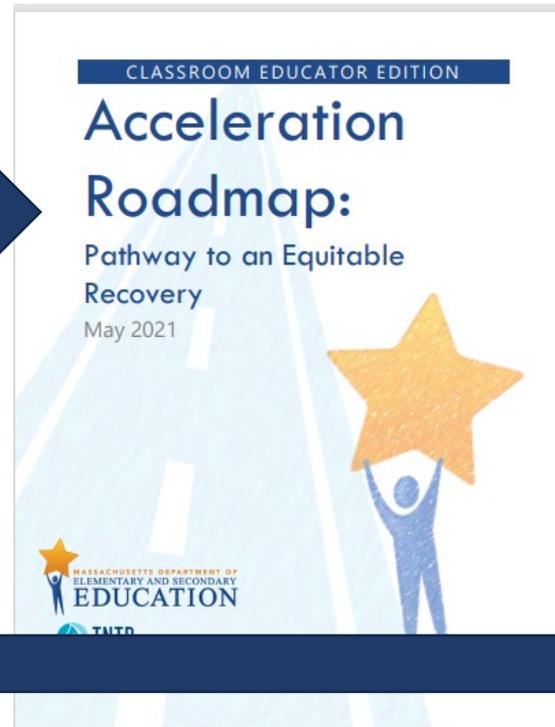


# Resources to help you plan: Acceleration Roadmap

Classroom Educator  
Roadmap



School Leader  
Roadmap



# Resources to help you plan: Roadmap Overview

## Phase 1: Diagnostic & Planning

- Spring & Summer 2021

## Phase 2: Launch

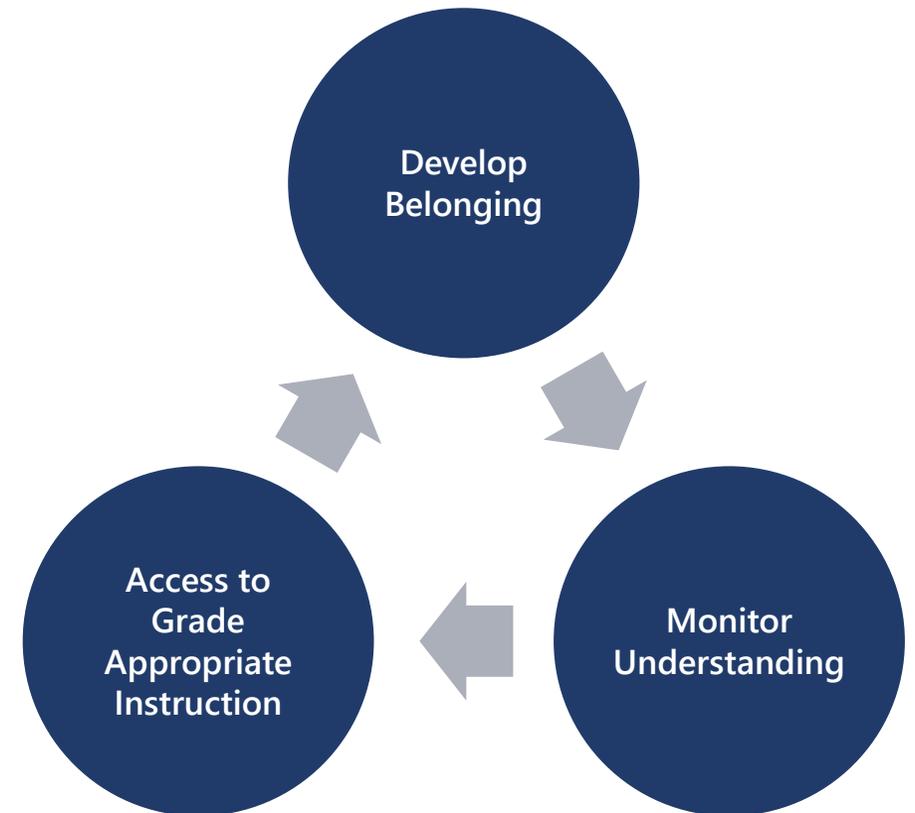
- Sept – Oct 2021

## Phase 3: Progress Monitoring

- Nov 2021 – April 2022

## Phase 4: Reflection & Planning

- May – June 2022



# Something New: Plan #2: Implementation plan (grant app)

## **Stakeholder outreach** and input is **required**, as applicable:

- Students
- Families
- School and district administrators, including special ed administrators
- School leaders
- Teachers
- Other educators and school staff
- Unions
- Tribes
- Civil rights organizations
- Stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

# Resource to help with Stakeholder Outreach

- Safe and Supportive Schools Commission – [Family and Community engagement rubric](#) (beginning on slide 38)



Think about ESSER funds in three main areas.



# Three Buckets

Think about ESSER funds in three main areas.



# Three Buckets

# Something New: Capital expenditures

- A Capital Expenditure Form (found in the ESSER III grant application) is required for prior approval of all capital expenditures or equipment of \$30,000 or more.
- Capital expenditures are defined in the Uniform Guidance as “expenditures to acquire capital assets or expenditures to make additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations, or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life.”

# Something New: Capital expenditures

- Remember that building projects must be related to disease mitigation/healthy environments
  - Ventilation systems (new install, upgrades, recommissioning, etc.)
  - Air purifiers
  - Windows and doors
  - Bathroom renovations (ventilation, no-touch fixtures, etc.)
  - Replacing water fountains with bottle filling stations

# Something New: Maintenance of Equity

- Local Educational Agency Maintenance Of Equity For High-Poverty Schools.—
- (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving funds under section 2001, a local educational agency shall not, in fiscal year 2022 or 2023—
    - (A) **reduce per-pupil funding (from combined State and local funding) for any high-poverty school** served by such local educational agency by an amount that exceeds—
      - (i) the total reduction in local educational agency funding (from combined State and local funding) for all schools served by the local educational agency in such fiscal year (if any); divided by
      - (ii) the number of children enrolled in all schools served by the local educational agency in such fiscal year; or
    - (B) **reduce per-pupil, full-time equivalent staff in any high-poverty school** by an amount that exceeds—
      - (i) the total reduction in full-time equivalent staff in all schools served by such local educational agency in such fiscal year (if any); divided by
      - (ii) the number of children enrolled in all schools served by the local educational agency in such fiscal year.

# Something New: Maintenance of Equity

- (2) **EXCEPTION**.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a local educational agency in fiscal year 2022 or 2023 that meets at least 1 of the following criteria in such fiscal year:
  - (A) Such local educational agency has a total enrollment of less than 1,000 students.
  - (B) Such local educational agency operates a single school.
  - (C) Such local educational agency serves all students within each grade span with a single school.
  - (D) Such local educational agency demonstrates an exceptional or uncontrollable circumstance, such as unpredictable changes in student enrollment or a precipitous decline in the financial resources of such agency, as determined by the Secretary of Education.

# Something New: Maintenance of Equity

- In the ESSER III grant application, this will be an assurance the district makes.
- Furthermore, DESE will populate a table that indicates schools in the highest quartile of poverty in the district, so that it's clear and transparent which schools you are agreeing to maintain at the required level of state/local spending

03

# ESSER III Fund Grant Application: A walk-through

# Resources

- ESSER III (Fund Code 119) materials:
  - Grant RFP and application <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2022/119/>
  - ESSER III Allocations: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/entitlement-allocation.aspx?view=code&fy=2022&code=119>
  - Application Due date: 10/4/21
- ESSER III resources:
  - ESSER III District Preparation Quick Reference Guide: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/esser/esser3-qrg.pdf>
- Your federal grants liaison:
  - Contact your [federal grants liaison](#) with any questions about the grant application, purposes, and requirements.
  - For questions related to the grant funding request and payment process, contact grants management at [Edgrants@mass.gov](mailto:Edgrants@mass.gov) or 781-338-6595.

# QUESTIONS and ANSWERS