



**January 28, 2022**

**Dear Partners in Education,**

On March 24, 2021, the Montana OPI received from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Funds, authorized under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. The ARP-ESSER provides \$382,019,236 (ESSER III) for Montana schools to safely reopen and sustain safe operations of schools while meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of ESSER funding that Montana has received and is available through September 2024.

Following the release of the ARP-ESSER funding, on April 21, 2021 the Department issued an application template for States to share how they will work with districts to monitor the use and impact of ARP ESSER funds. Through the [ARP-ESSER State template](#), the following requirements and timelines were set by the Department:

Therefore, the Montana OPI is seeking public comment on the [ARP-ESSER State template](#) via a **short survey**. Please note that responses will be considered formal public comment. We have also scheduled a 90-minute virtual webinar that we will host 4 different times to seek public input. See below for details.

Any comments on ARP-ESSER should be directed to [essainput@mt.gov](mailto:essainput@mt.gov).

Below is a **Timeline** outlining the process with stakeholder involvement:

**May 11, 2021:** Initiate public comment, by sending email to stakeholders and posting information on the OPI webpage with links to [ARP-ESSER State template](#). **Survey for public comment** posted.

**May, 2021:** Consultation with the Governor's office

**May 14, 2021:** Presentation and discussion with the Montana Board of Public Education

**May 17, 2021:** Webinar 1 for public input, 9:00am-10:30am

**May 17, 2021:** Webinar 2 for public input, 3:30pm to 5:00pm

**May 18, 2021:** Discussion with Education Advocates

**May 18, 2021:** Webinar 3 for public input, 10:30am-12:00pm

**May 18, 2021:** Webinar 4 for public input, 4:00pm-5:30pm

**May 21, 2021:** Survey for public comment deadline

**June 7, 2021:** Final Draft prepared and submitted to the DOE

## Webinar-Zoom Links:

Date	Time	Zoom Link
Monday, May 17	9:00am- 10:30am	<a href="https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/81222523018?pwd=ZnNISUZWUkdXd2JtQk04Z1N2bjlYQT09">https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/81222523018?pwd=ZnNISUZWUkdXd2JtQk04Z1N2bjlYQT09</a> Meeting ID: 812 2252 3018 Password: 377524  Dial by Telephone +1 646 558 8656 or +1 406 444 9999 Meeting ID: 812 2252 3018 Password: 377524 Find your local number: <a href="https://mt-gov.zoom.us/u/kcYY4clbtZ">https://mt-gov.zoom.us/u/kcYY4clbtZ</a>
Monday, May 17	3:30pm- 5:00pm	<a href="https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/85813099946?pwd=K3JPZ1IrTms1OWpOZDFZbzJQOTErQT09">https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/85813099946?pwd=K3JPZ1IrTms1OWpOZDFZbzJQOTErQT09</a> Meeting ID: 858 1309 9946 Password: 317302  Dial by Telephone +1 646 558 8656 or +1 406 444 9999 Meeting ID: 858 1309 9946 Password: 317302 Find your local number: <a href="https://mt-gov.zoom.us/u/ku8xyn8Gm">https://mt-gov.zoom.us/u/ku8xyn8Gm</a>
Tuesday, May 18	10:30am- 12:00pm	<a href="https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/81481859343?pwd=Y0hkM0dKdnpEcHFecU1DUHRzd1VtQT09">https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/81481859343?pwd=Y0hkM0dKdnpEcHFecU1DUHRzd1VtQT09</a> Meeting ID: 814 8185 9343 Password: 710609  Dial by Telephone +1 646 558 8656 or +1 406 444 9999 Meeting ID: 814 8185 9343 Password: 710609 Find your local number: <a href="https://mt-gov.zoom.us/u/ki4winBIa">https://mt-gov.zoom.us/u/ki4winBIa</a>
Tuesday, May 18	4:00pm- 5:30pm	Not available

Please send feedback, input and questions to [ESSAinput@mt.gov](mailto:ESSAinput@mt.gov)

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