



SEPTEMBER 2023

Office of Federal Emergency Relief Programs (OFERP)

Notes to the Field



Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- September 30th - CRRSA ESSER 2 Funds and Multilingual Learners Experiencing Homelessness (MLEH) Funds must be obligated
 - For guidance regarding obligation, [see this chart](#).
- October 5th 9 a.m. - OFERP Office Hours - Register [here](#).
- December 30th - CRRSA ESSER 2 and MLEH Invoicing must be complete.



PROGRAM NOTES

What is Late Liquidation and How Does It Effect SAU's?

Join the OFERP Team Office Hour on Thursday, October 5th at 9 a.m. for a session devoted to answer all of your questions regarding late liquidation extension of CRRSA ESSER 2 funds. We will discuss what late liquidation is for, as well as the requirements and process involved. You can register for this informative session [here](#).

Adjustments to CRRSA ESSER 2 Applications

REMINDER: The only requests to alter the CRRSA ESSER 2 applications that will be permitted for Maine School Administrative Units (SAUs) are ones that are accompanied by a request from the OFERP invoice team to revise the application to align with allowable spending or a submitted invoice.

Liquidating ESSER 2 Funds

The liquidation period for CRRSA ESSER 2 is from October 1, 2023 to December 30, 2023. While the deadline for liquidation is December 30, 2023, SAUs are encouraged to submit invoices as early as possible to allow time for any necessary revisions.

Share your Good News!



Maine DOE Seeking to Highlight ESSER Federal Emergency Relief Funding Projects

The Maine Department of Education (DOE) is looking to share stories of school administrative units (SAUs) using Federal Emergency Relief Funding to positively impact their students and school communities.

The Maine DOE is administering a questionnaire to collect information about these projects in order to create stories that will be shared broadly through the Maine DOE communication efforts. Sharing good news about the use of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding increases transparency and visibility, giving the public insight into the purpose and impact of these funds.

Find the questionnaire here: [Federal Emergency Relief Funds Highlights](#)

If you have any further questions or need clarification, reach out to Maine Department of Education Communications and Outreach Coordinator Rachel Paling at rachel.paling@maine.gov.





AUDITORS ARE ON THE HUNT FOR ESSER FRAUD

This was the headline from a recent article published by EdWeek.org. You can read the full article [here](#).

Here are just a few of the points made in the article:

- Some districts have failed to follow proper procedures for documenting or tracking investments.
- Scandals over spending federal dollars on schools have erupted in two states.
- The term “fraud” brings to mind embezzlement and corruption. But in school districts, it more often looks like “errors or omissions” that leave unanswered questions about where dollars went or who oversaw their movement. These often come as a result of staffers who simply don’t understand or don’t have the bandwidth to absorb every detail of the regulations.
- Construction spending has been particularly tricky for districts to manage. To comply with the law, districts are required to prioritize materials produced in America and adhere to federal wage and benefit standards for construction workers. These are just a couple of requirements related to construction and many districts are failing to meet those requirements.
- Auditors’ oversight of federal spending will soon shift toward a sharper focus on outcomes. Did districts spend money in ways that made a meaningful difference for students and staff? Did they implement procedures to track the outcomes of their spending decisions? Are they able to easily demonstrate to auditors how they arrived at their conclusions?



Again, you can find the full article [here](#).



New ESSER Application Coordinator?

This time of year many SAUs have new personnel who will be assuming responsibility for the ESSER grants. To change the name of the application or invoicing coordinator, see directions available [here](#). Additionally, you can contact the GEM support email for personalized service: support@gemschoolsoftware.com



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