

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, CTE Directors, Business Managers
FROM: Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education *DMF*
SUBJECT: ARP-ESSER Cybersecurity Grant Application
DATE: July 15, 2022

Purpose

By this memo you are notified that the application for the ARP-ESSER Cybersecurity Grant Application for Vermont LEAs is now available in the [Grant Management System](#) (GMS). ARP-ESSER funds are available as part of the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#). The applications for this competitive grant opportunity are due August 19, 2022.

Overview

Created by ARP ESSER Section 2001(f)(1), this funding is set aside for specific activities that help address learning loss by supporting actions that respond to students' academic, social and emotional needs. This grant encourages the development of comprehensive data breach response plans and provides assistance in purchasing needed equipment and software to ensure students and educators have continuous network access to the technology needed for instruction. Of particular urgency is cybersecurity planning that protects school network access for activities that address learning loss be it for academic enrichment, extended day, afterschool programs or extended school year programs. Establishing a cybersecurity framework and data breach response plan for a district will help schools better manage and reduce their cybersecurity risk and ensure continuous student access to the technology needed to maintain fidelity in instruction.

Within Vermont, this fund is being administered as a competitive grant program in line with Vermont's Education Recovery and Revitalization framework. LEAs state-wide are invited to submit applications detailing how this funding could support their local COVID-19 recovery strategies and the overall goal of providing equal access to high quality education to every Vermont learner.

Grants will be awarded for a performance period of October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2023.

Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information please contact:
Lisa Helme at lisa.helme@vermont.gov

Creating and Editing the Application in the Grant Management System

All superintendents and business managers have permissions in the GMS to create and edit the application. If desired, a superintendent can delegate the ability to create and edit the application to additional staff, by assigning the role "leaESSER" to any staff members with a GMS account. Note that, as with all other grant applications, only the superintendent can agree to assurances and do the final submission to the Agency of Education.

LEAs should direct programmatic questions or questions about object/function codes to [Lisa Helme](#). Any technical questions pertaining to budgets or other financial topics should be sent to [Deb Allen](#).