

Covid-19 Related Grants Summaries
ESSER I, ESSER II, and CRF
Newtown Public Schools

Background on ESSER I

- Funded by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law March 20, 2020.
- Authorized \$13.2 billion nationwide for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, also known as ESSER I.
- Newtown's allocation was \$137,201, based on the Title I, Part A formula. Funds must be used by September 30, 2022, for allowable purposes under the CARES Act.

Newtown's ESSER I funds were used for 2020-21 school year, including:

- Behavioral Interventionist position for Head O'Meadow School
 - District digital licenses for IXL, Lexia Core 5, and Raz Kids
 - Portable air purifiers
 - Overtime hours for nurses for contact tracing
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Background on ESSER II

- Funded by the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRSSA), signed into law on December 27, 2020.
- Authorized nearly \$54 billion nationwide for ESSER (the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Fund, also known as ESSER II.
- Newtown's allocation was \$625,532, based on the Title I, Part A formula. Funds must be used by September 30, 2023, for allowable purposes under CRSSA.

The CT State Department of Education identified five priorities for districts for ESSER funding:

1. Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal, and Student Enrichment
2. Family and Community Connections
3. Social, Emotional, and Mental Health of the Students and of our School Staff
4. Strategic Use of Technology, Staff Development, and the Digital Divide
5. Building Safe and Healthy Schools

Newtown’s ESSER II 2021-22 Budget by Priority Area:

Priority 1	
.5 Math Interventionist	Hawley
.5 Math Interventionist	Sandy Hook School
.5 Reading Interventionist	Middle Gate School
1.0 Math Interventionist	NMS
1.0 Special Education Teacher (costs in 2020-21 and 2021-22)	Middle Gate School
2.0 Special Education Teachers	NMS
PD on Co-Teaching Model for Special Education in ELA/Math	NMS
IXL Math District-Wide Digital License	District
Lexia Core 5 and Lexia Power Up Digital Licenses	District
Everyday Speech and Super Duper Library Digital Licenses	District
Priority 3	
1.0 Behavioral Interventionist	Head O’Meadow
Priority 4	
Newsela District-Wide Licenses (ELA, Science, Social Studies, SEL)	District
EdPuzzle Digital Licenses	District
Priority 5	
Stipend for Head Nurse for Extra Covid-19 Responsibilities (2020-21 cost)	District
Overtime Hours for Nurses, Custodians and Other Staff for Vaccine Clinics (2020-21 cost)	District
MERV Filters for Improved Air Quality	District

Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Information

- The CT State Department of Education conducted two surveys in July and August asking districts what model they planned to use to reopen and what costs they anticipated incurring above their appropriated budgets for the 2020-21 school year.
- Based on the surveys, the Governor committed \$130.8 million statewide in CRF to reimburse districts for increased costs due to Coronavirus for 4 categories of spending: (1) Building Cleaning, Health, and PPE; (2) Transportation; (3) Academic; and (4) Student Support.
- Newtown received \$380,841 in CRF funds to be used for expenses from March 1 to December 30, 2020.

Newtown's CRF Budget by Category

Building Cleaning, Health, and PPE	
Overtime hours for custodians to ensure facilities are cleaned using CDC guidelines	District
Increase in contracted hours for school nurses for Covid-19 screening, contact tracing, and communication with families	District
HVAC Programming and Commissioning and MERV 13 filters to improve air quality	District
Installation of plexiglass dividers for school office spaces	District
Cameras and microphones to support synchronous remote learning	District
Portable air purifiers for classrooms	District
Transportation	
Bus Monitors to ensure students on buses follow Covid-19 rules	District
Academic	
Contractual costs for staff to participate in district reopening planning	District
Additional hours for paraprofessionals to support elementary students in reading and math	K-4
Additional science teaching support	NHS
Student Supports	
Summer hours for school counselors to assist with scheduling	NMS
Additional elementary school psychologist services	K-4

