

5 MYTHS

ABOUT COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING



MYTHS

The CARES Act is the sole piece of legislation governing supplemental funding to school districts for COVID-19 response.

COVID-19 relief funds can be spent on teacher salaries regardless of when the school's budget was approved.

Grants from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II Fund (ESSER II) can be used *only* for the same types of expenses allowed under ESSER I.

Schools funding a position using CARES/CRRSA/ARP dollars may change the position's funding source to another Federal grant after September 30, 2023.

The usual Federal grant documentation standards do not apply to COVID-19 relief funds.



FACTS

Three bills govern COVID-related funding for schools: the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Expenses budgeted prior to March 27, 2020 cannot be reimbursed using CARES/CRRSA/ARP funds unless the cost or scope of work has been significantly changed by the need to prevent, prepare, or respond to COVID-19.

In addition to expenses permitted under ESSER I, ESSER II funds may be used to address learning loss, prepare for reopening of schools, and test, repair or upgrade systems to improve the air quality in school buildings.

Once the relevant legislation expires (September 30, 2022 for CARES, September 30, 2023 for CRRSA, and September 30, 2024 for ARPA), the position must be discontinued or funded by other sources, such as State or local funds.

When it comes to CARES, CRRSA, or ARPA funds, personnel and expenditure documentation standards remain in force. Additional requirements--such as reporting time and effort separately for *each grant*--are also in effect.