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# **CASB Conversations**

## **Preparing Your District Budget With Two Years in Mind**

Colorado K-12 Funding



Colorado Association  
of School Boards

# CASB CONVERSATIONS WEBINAR

Using Zoom today:

- Please discover the CHAT button on the screen, as this is where you can communicate with us.
- Please make sure you are muted during the webinar.
- Use the hand icon, located in the Participants toolbox, to raise your hand when you have a question or comment.



Colorado Association  
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# INTRODUCTIONS

- ❖ *Tracie Rainey, Executive Director for the Colorado School Finance Project*
- ❖ *Susan Meek, Project Manager, Colorado School Finance Project, School Board Member, Douglas County School District*



Colorado Association  
of School Boards

COLORADO SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT

Support Children - Support The Future

# Time to Build Your Budget Knowing its ESSER Halftime

Tracie Rainey, Executive Director

Susan Meek, Project Manager ESSER Grant

Colorado School Finance Project

February 14, 2023

COLORADO SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT

Support Children - Support The Future

# Colorado School Finance Project

Non-profit, non-partisan- Supported by school district contributions- School finance analysis for local and state policy makers since 1995- Governed by a board comprised of national and state experts on school finance

**Our Mission:** *To compile, collect and distribute research-based, non-partisan information and data on topics related to school finance for state and local policymakers.*

Goals of this  
Presentation-  
Clarity around  
budget process

1. What is your district's process?
2. Get a clear understanding of timelines that impact your budget process.
3. How does your district reach out to stakeholders?

## Key Items to be aware of

- Enrollment – How much change? How accurate to your projections?
- How does your staffing match your enrollment? How much attrition?
- What are your at-risk numbers compared to your estimate?
- PreK – What does this look like in your district? How are you planning for impact with changes and additional costs?

## Legislative Session

- Changes to local share
- Changes to at-risk – planning for impact
- Changes to formula – be aware of conversations regarding COL and averaging



## Local District Priorities

- How do you incorporate into your discussions?
- Are past priorities and practices still the same today? Have they changed? Was COVID a driver in change?
- How do you assess prior years impact and success?
- How are you planning for multiple years in your budget? And why?

## Items on the horizon

- ESSER's limited window of opportunity is at ½ way point
- State is grappling with 8% inflation
- Income tax rate was just lowered, putting pressure on the general fund
- Property taxes were reduced, putting pressure on the general fund – and the state sees a fiscal cliff the same year ESSER dollars go away

## Responsibilities of Board Members

- Fiduciary duty
- You must approve a preliminary budget by May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- You must approve your final budget by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Your budget can be amended.

## Items to Remember

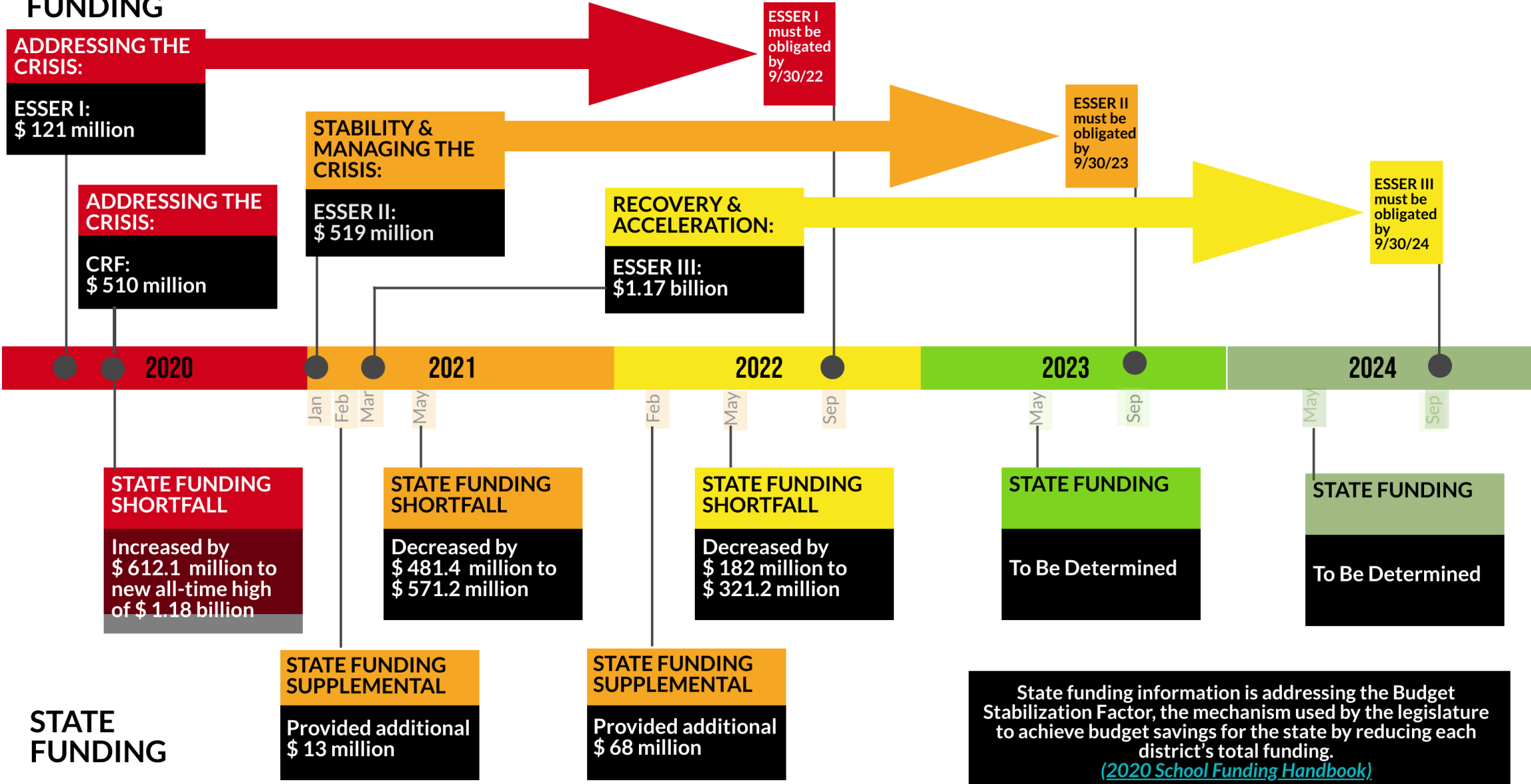
1. Your budget may need to change as you have new information
2. Remember carry over dollars and fund balance are one-time dollars – don't confuse for ongoing
3. Staffing should be paid with ongoing dollars
4. How does your budget support your vision and mission?

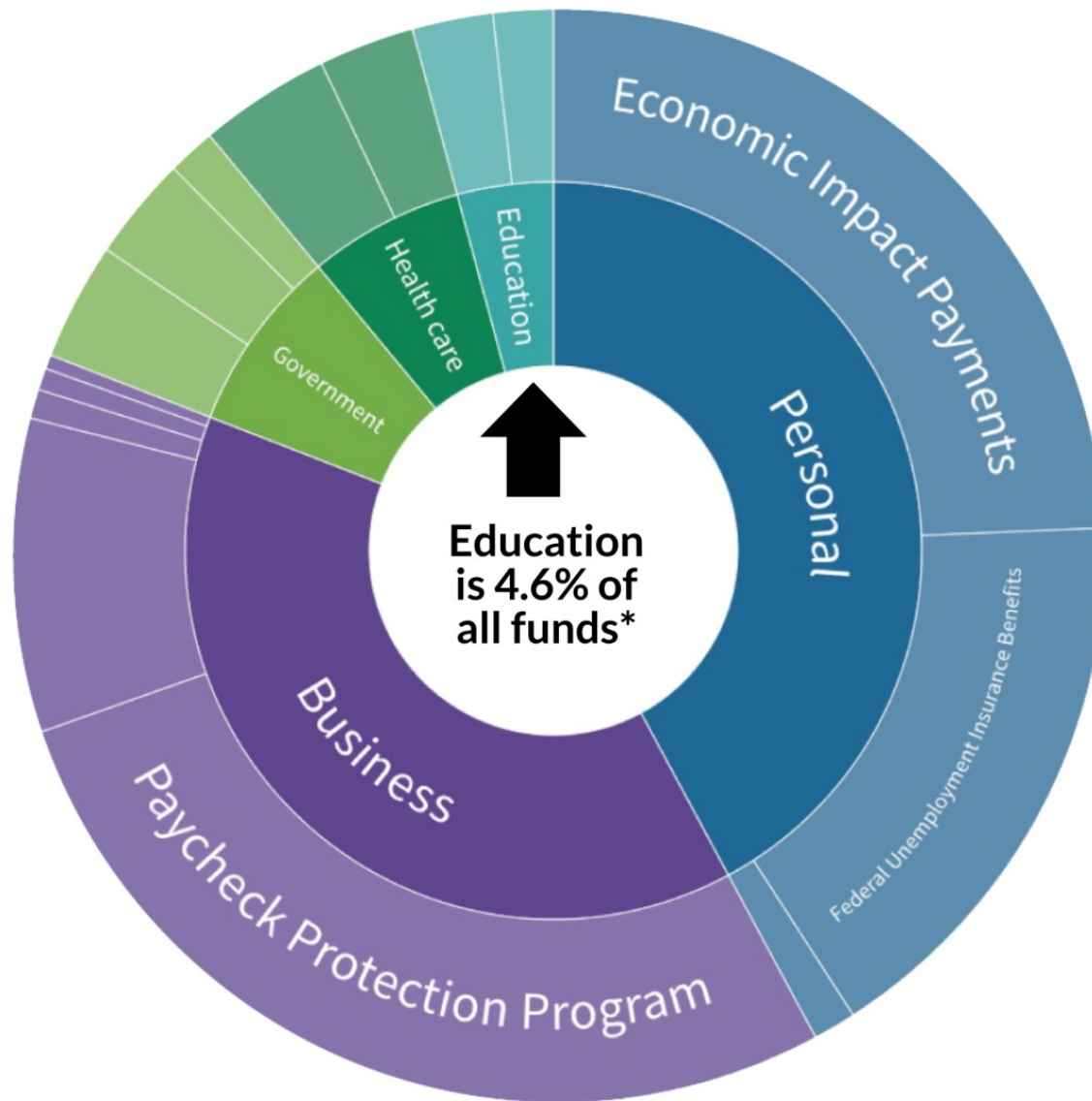
Questions  
before going  
on?

Questions?

# ESSER Funding Timeline

updated : Oct 2022





\*Source: *The Big Payout: Colorado received close to \$66 billion in pandemic aid. We tracked where that money went.*, The Denver Post, April 14, 2022

# COLORADO SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT

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## Colorado Education Pandemic Relief Funds

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed [three stimulus bills](#) that include funding for education. Find information about each of the 178 Colorado school districts and the Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) below by selecting the district or BOCES name. [Click HERE](#) to view Districts by list. [Click HERE](#) if you have edits or updates you would like to submit for your district.

**NEW: ESSER I Key Takeaways**

**NEW FOR DISTRICTS:** [ESSER II Fact Sheets for districts](#)

**NEW FOR BOCES:** [ESSER II Fact Sheets for BOCES](#)

[BOCES ESSER I Fact Sheets](#)

### BOCES

[Adams County BOCES](#)

[Centennial BOCES](#)

[Colorado River BOCES](#)

[East Central BOCES](#)

[Education reEnvisioned BOCES](#)

[Expeditionary BOCES](#)

[Front Range BOCES](#)

[Grand Valley BOCES](#)

[Mountain BOCES](#)

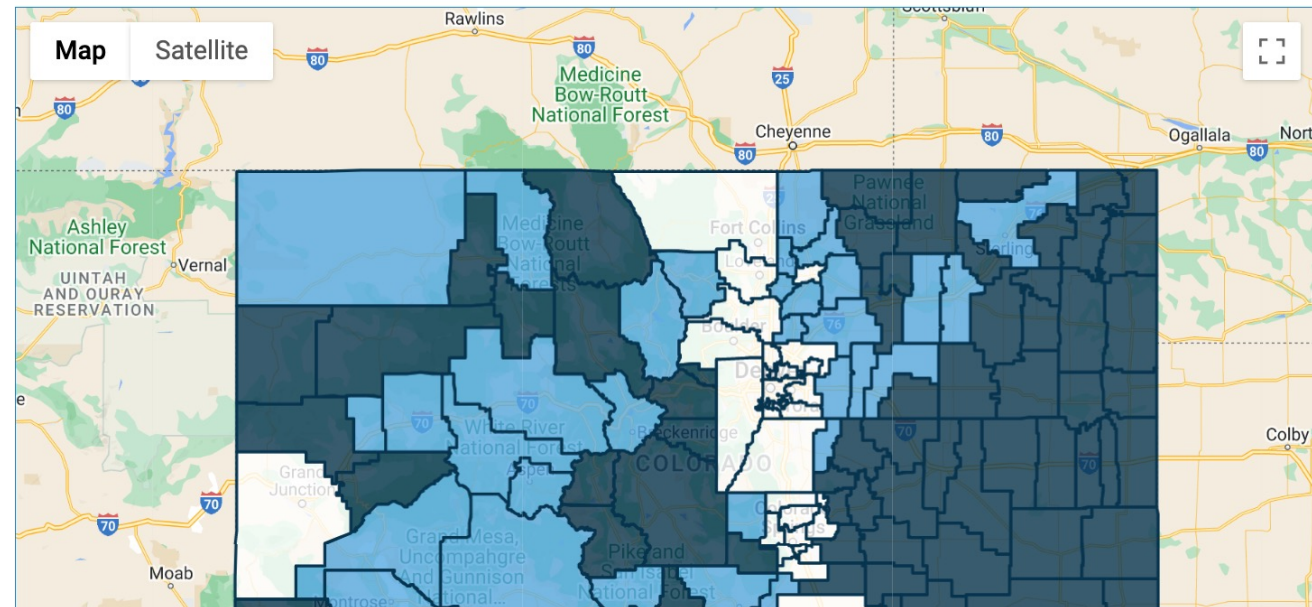
[Mt. Evans BOCES](#)

[Northeast BOCES](#)

[Northwest BOCES](#)

[Pikes Peak BOCES](#)

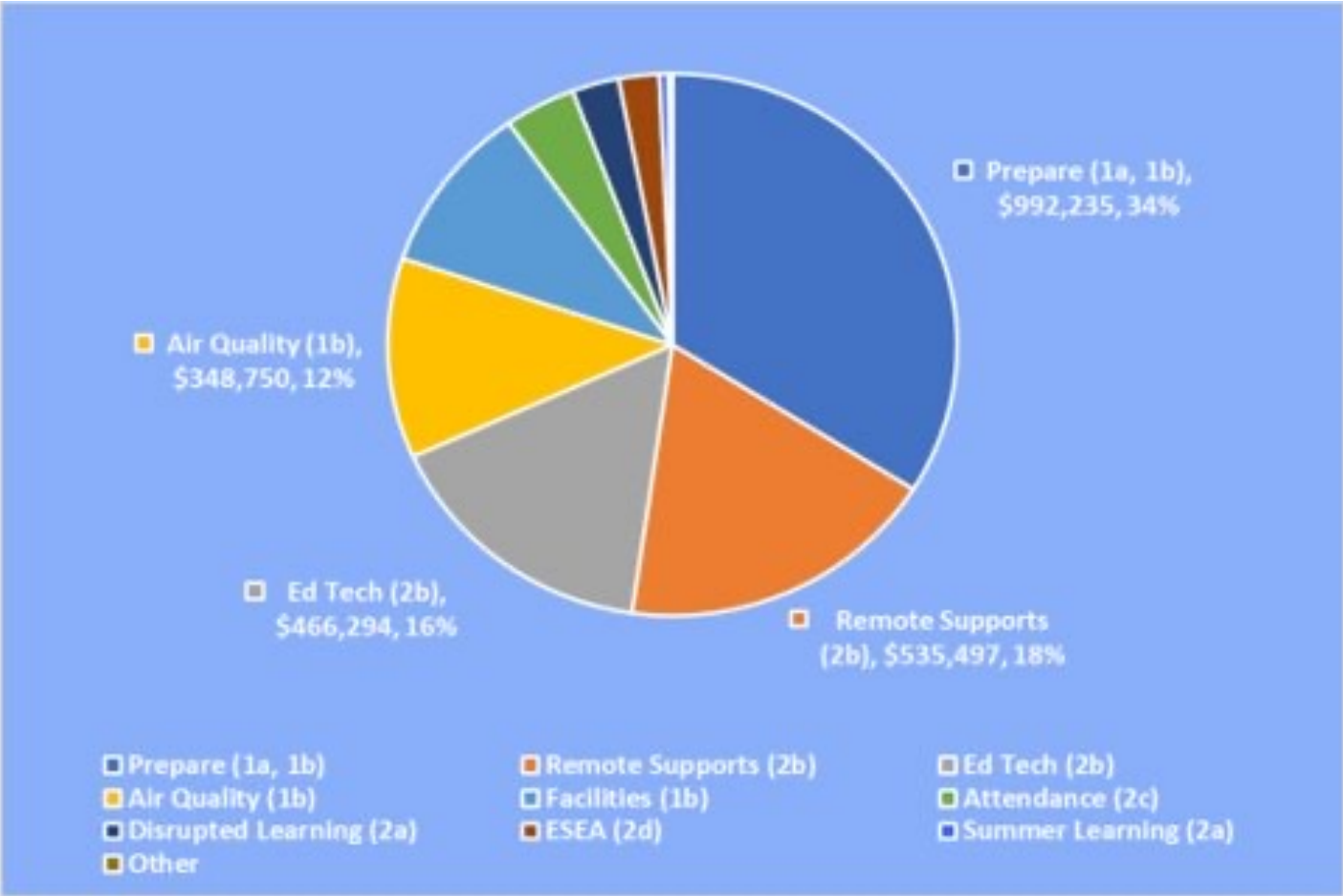
### Colorado School Districts





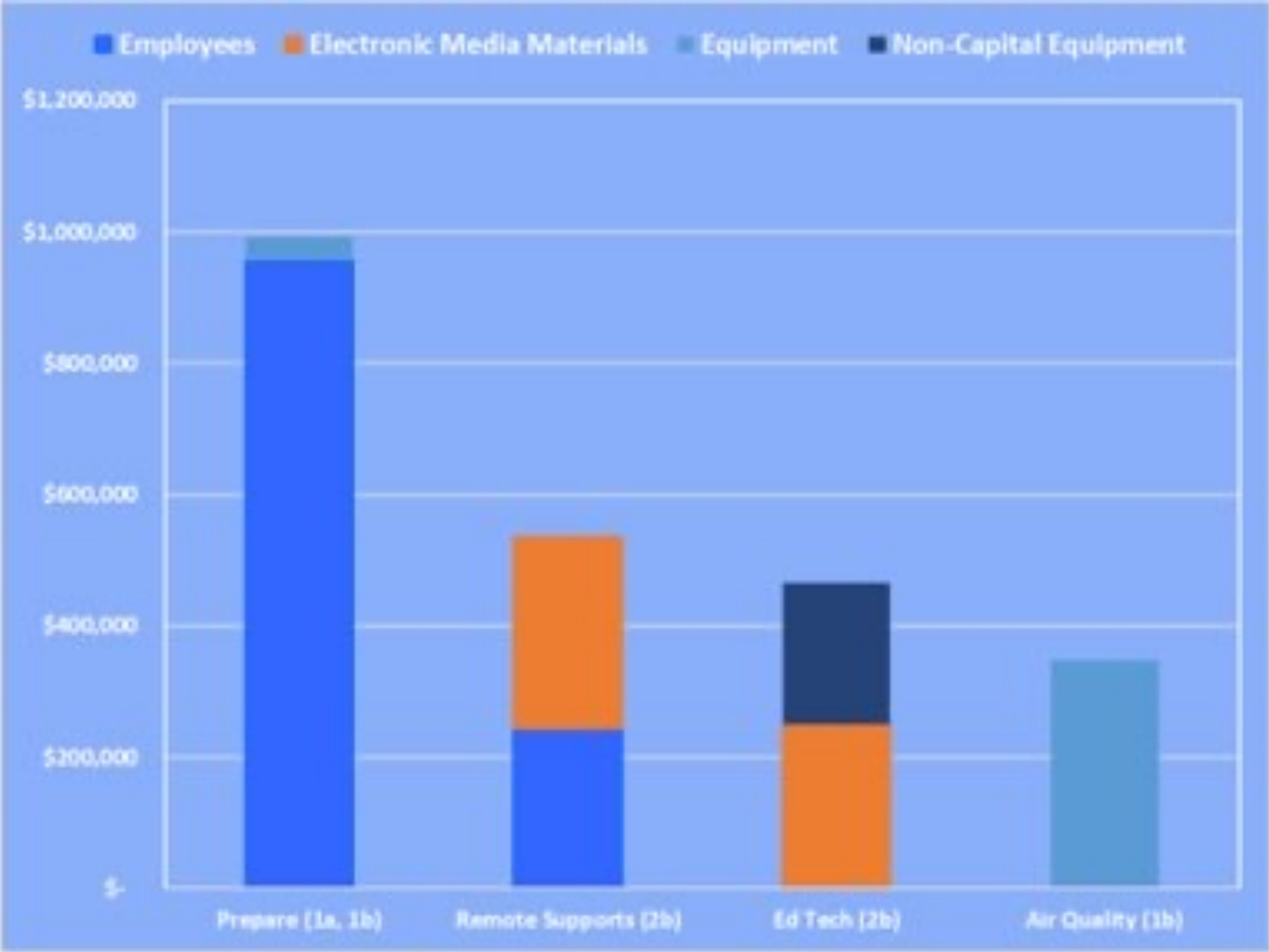
# ESSER II Fact Sheets identify your largest investments by allowable activity.

ESSER – where were funds allocated



# ESSER II Fact Sheets help explain the sustainability of those investments.


ESSER – funds distributed towards people in many districts





# Communication and logic models exist for every type of investment to help tell your district's story.

ESSER – communication and logic models

## 2.b – Ensuring Equitable Access to and Effective Use of Technology

	<p><b>KEY MESSAGE:</b></p> <p>To prepare students for success in today's high-tech world, it is critical that every student has access to digital devices and high-speed broadband internet. Technology will not only make it possible to stream virtual classes when in-person learning is not possible, it also enables all students to actively engage in their learning going forward.</p>
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### TACTICAL TIPS

	<p><b>Talk about "acceleration" rather than "loss."</b> Many people believe the term "learning loss" does not accurately capture how students experienced the pandemic and misses the learning that did occur. Communication might instead consider describing the "impact of lost instructional time" or "disrupted learning," and opportunities to "accelerate learning" – avoiding deficit language.</p>
	<p><b>Focus on forward-looking impact.</b> It is important to emphasize that the pandemic has a long-lasting impact on student success, and that investments now will pay dividends both in the short-term and throughout a student's experience. For example, providing high-quality tutoring today is an investment in our graduation rate years from now.</p>

# ESSER – communication and logic models

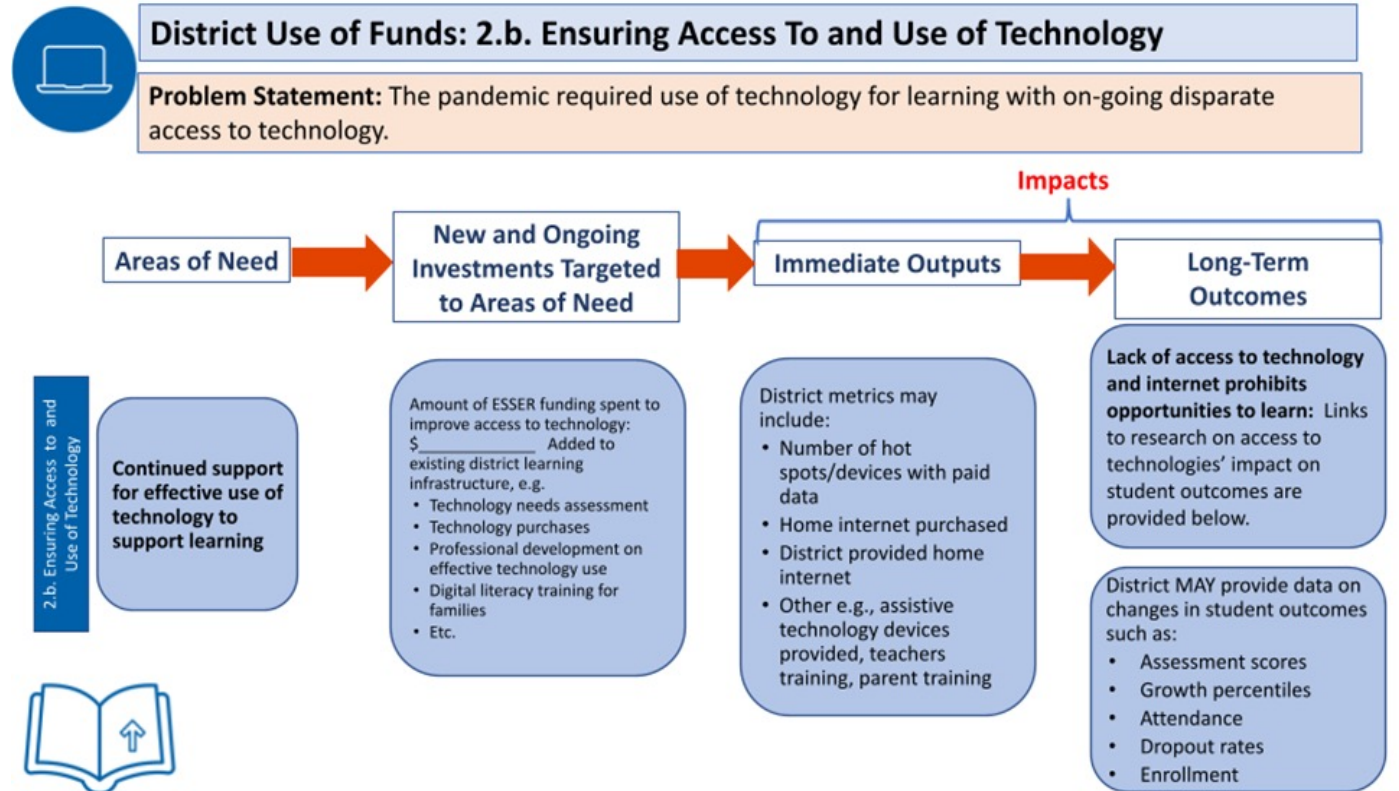
February 14, 2023



## TALKING ABOUT THE IMPACT ON STUDENTS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Know who the services were available to AND who received services.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	How were students identified for support, especially those who were disproportionately impacted by COVID?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If funds were passed onto schools, how were school funds determined?

A theory of action, or logic model, is a tool to help you explain and talk about the reasons why resources were deployed as they were. The following graphic illustration of the relationship between a program's resources, activities, and its intended effects is meant to help you speak about this investment priority. Logic models clearly and concisely show how interventions affect behavior and achieve a goal.



## **ESSER ends September 30, 2024**

- You are ½ way through ESSER – How much has been budgeted? How much has been collected from CDE?
- Is your ESSER plan still in operation? Or should you pivot or change to accommodate student needs and timelines?

ESSER – where are you with your district's plan?

ESSER – where are you with your district's plan? (cont.)

## **ESSER ends September 30, 2024**

- How have those dollars been used? People? Facilities? Things (computers, HVAC curriculum)?
- How are you planning for these dollars to go away?
- This is the time to start that process

ESSER -  
requirements  
for engagement  
and disrupted  
learning

- ESSER III has specific requirements:
  - Public engagement of your plan
  - 20% minimum towards disrupted learning
- Website materials help you accomplish the requirements.

# Questions & Stay Connected

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**Stay connected**

<https://cosfp.org/>

@COSFP

Colorado School Finance Project - Facebook



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ CASB New Board Member Café – Wednesday, February 15 on Advocacy
- ❖ CASB Board President Café – Thursday, February 16 on Superintendent Evaluations
- ❖ CASB Day at the Capitol – Thursday, February 23
- ❖ Rural Board Member Roundtable – Tuesday, February 28

