Reverse Learning Loss with ESSER II Funding

With new stimulus funding, districts and schools have the opportunity to invest in programs to help meet the needs of their students. The Coronavirus Recovery and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act allocates over $54 billion to K-12 education through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) fund.

ESSER II places an emphasis on addressing student learning loss during COVID-19. The allowable uses of the funds give principals and local education agencies (LEAs) wide latitude for decision making to fit the needs of their individual schools and districts.

Allowable Uses of ESSER II Funds†	Reading Plus Meets the Requirement	Additional Details
"Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction"	✓	The **Reading Plus assessment**, InSight, is a valid and reliable assessment that is strongly correlated to national and state reading assessments. InSight earned the highest rating of "convincing evidence" from the National Center for Intensive Intervention (NCII). Ongoing assessments help inform personalized instruction. Educators can access a wide library of resources to support differentiation at the whole class, small group, and individual level. Reading Plus provides teachers with supplemental materials including video tutorials, printable worksheets, graphic organizers, and lesson plans.
"Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students"	✓	Reading Plus is an evidence-based program with an **extensive research portfolio** that demonstrates statistically significant effects on improving student outcomes. Reading Plus was found to have **"strong evidence" to support ESSA** by the Evidence for ESSA team at Johns Hopkins University.
"Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment"	✓	A comprehensive **Family Support** webpage includes resources for family members to assist and encourage students learning from home, including printable guides, videos, and answers to frequently asked questions. A built-in Family Portal helps families to ensure children learning from home achieve optimal results. Parents and family members can learn how to help a student take the assessment, complete lessons, and more with the Home Learning Guide for Families, available in English, Spanish, Haitian-Creole, and Portuguese.

Allowable Uses of ESSER II Funds[†]	Reading Plus Meets the Requirement	Additional Details
"Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, and racial and ethnic minorities"	✓	Research shows that Reading Plus improves reading proficiency for **English learners**, **students with learning disabilities**, and **students eligible for subsidized lunch**. The program includes **texts that reflect and respect the experiences and cultures of all students**, with special care for students whose backgrounds have been historically underrepresented in learning materials.
"Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and after-school programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning"	✓	Reading Plus is an online program that can be easily and effectively implemented in school or in a **hybrid or virtual learning model**, with flexible programs for **summer and after school**.
"Purchasing educational technology … that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors"	✓	The program includes built-in messaging tools that enable teachers and students to communicate directly with each other. Real-time alerts and notifications identify students who need additional attention and support.
"Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education"	✓	Reading Plus reporting tools can be used to track student attendance and engagement during remote learning. The **Real-Time Activity Dashboard** allows educators to monitor student usage and up-to-the-minute assignment activity. **Research** shows that Reading Plus builds student motivation by improving reading proficiency. Students can be active participants in their learning journey by viewing their progress with clear and engaging graphics. Students self-select texts through eight interest filters that provide choice and control over reading material.
Activities already eligible under: ■ Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) ■ Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) ■ Carl Perkins Career & Technical Education Act ■ McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ■ CARES Act	✓	Reading Plus can be purchased with the federal funding sources listed in the **K-12 funding guide**.

[†] Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, H.R. 133, 116th Cong. (2021). Pages 748–750. https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr133/BILLS-116hr133enr.pdf

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