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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

TO: SPCSA Board
FROM: Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director
Jennifer Bauer, Director of Finance & Operations
SUBJECT: Update Regarding Emergency Funding
DATE: October 1, 2021

Background

Since March of 2020, the Federal Government has enacted three federal stimulus packages. SPCSA staff provided an [overview of this federal emergency funding](#) at the April 23, 2021 meeting of the State Public Charter School Authority. At that time, all funding from the first emergency stimulus bill, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) had been awarded to sponsored charter schools and schools had begun seeking reimbursement for approved expenditures. While sponsored charter schools had received allocations for the ESSER II funding from the second emergency stimulus bill, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act), the application for these funds was still in progress. Additionally, the SPCSA had not yet received any information regarding the GEER II funding from the CRRSA Act. Finally, while the third emergency stimulus bill, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP Act) had been signed into law and the SPCSA had received preliminary information regarding the ARP ESSER funding, the application for these funds had not yet opened.

Updates Regarding Funding from the CRRSA Act

At the end of May, the SPCSA submitted the application for ESSER II funding to the Nevada Department of Education (NDE), and following a series of requested revisions from NDE, this application was approved on July 15, 2021. Thus, sponsored schools now have access to request

reimbursement for approved expenditures under the ESSER II grant. The SPCSA has not received any additional information at this time regarding the GEER II funding under the CRRSA Act. When additional information is received, SPCSA staff will work to allocate these funds to sponsored schools.

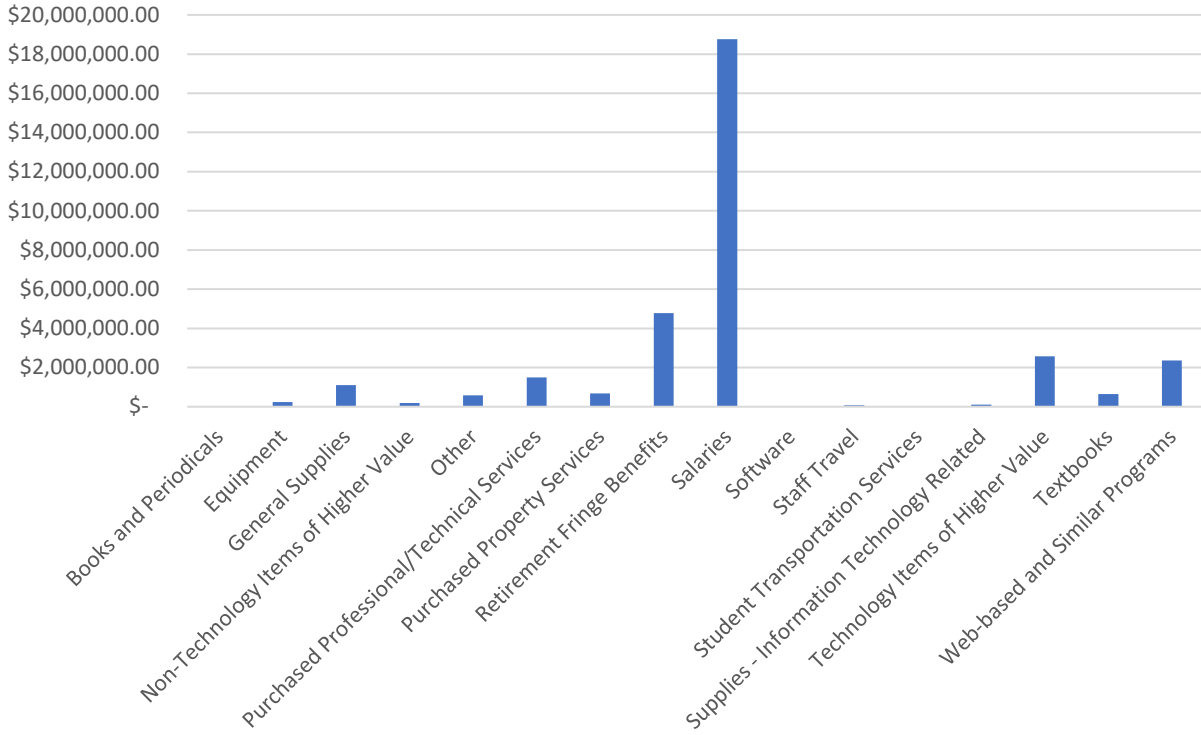
Updates Regarding Funding from the ARP Act

On June 15, 2021, NDE provided the SPCSA and other Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) with allocations for approximately two-thirds of the anticipated ARP ESSER funding¹. The SPCSA allocated this funding to each charter holder based on a straight per-pupil allocation plus a supplemental allocation for each charter holder with greater than 40% of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch reflected in the October 2020 validated count day data. Sponsored charter schools were required to submit their applications for ARP ESSER funding by August 16, 2021, and the SPCSA submitted the compiled application for ARP ESSER funding to NDE on September 10, 2021. Below is a summary of how schools are requesting to spend their ARP ESSER funds².

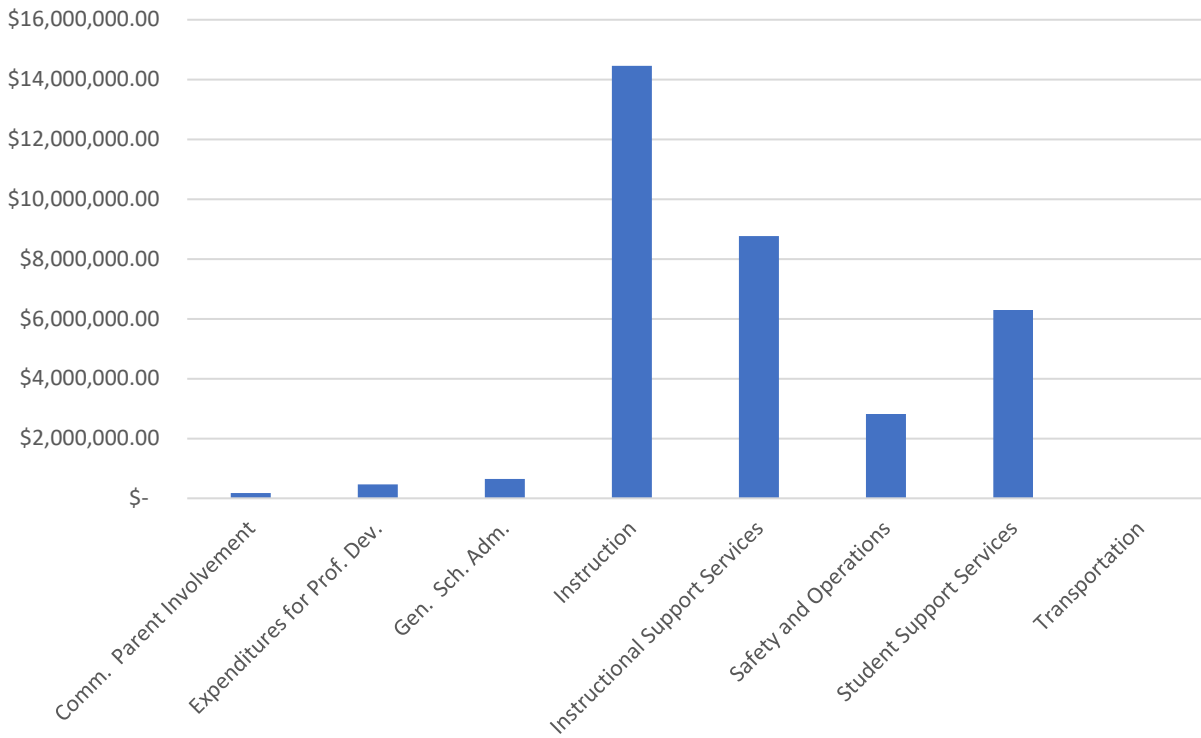
¹ NDE allocated only the first two-thirds of funding to LEAs because the federal government only provided State Educational Agencies with access to the first two-thirds of funding. See letter from Secretary of Education Cardona on March 24, 2021: https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/ARP_Letter_Sec_to_Chiefs_Final_03.24.2021-1.pdf

² Application is subject to approval from the Nevada Department of Education so this summarizes the request but is pending approval.

ARP ESSER School Totals by Object Code



ARP ESSER School Totals by Function



Additionally, through Assembly Bill 495, the legislature allocated an additional \$15 million from the ARP Act Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) to Title I charter schools³. SPCSA staff have been in frequent communication with the Governor's Finance Office regarding the timeline and process for allocating these funds. The SPCSA has also engaged with Title I schools through an informational meeting as well as a request for specific information regarding funding gaps that remain after allocation of the other emergency funding. The federal requirements for these CSFRF funds are quite extensive - much more than the funds from the CARES Act or the CRRSA Act. The Governor's Finance office is diligently working to balance the adherence of complex federal compliance and reporting requirements while also making access to these funds simple and rapid. SPCSA staff anticipate, in the coming weeks, the ability to work with the Governor's Finance on specific program details and compliance needs. Due to the intricacies and level of effort involved in this process, SPCSA staff anticipate it is likely to be a few months before receiving approval for a budget modification to begin administering these funds.

³ Assembly Bill 495 states that to qualify for this grant, "a charter school must be a Title I school," and does not specify a particular charter school sponsor. Therefore, the SPCSA intends to grant these funds to Title I charter schools sponsored both by the SPCSA and by school districts.