

HISD PRESS RELEASE

Houston ISD launches ESSER funds transparency dashboard

May 5, 2022 - In continuation of its commitment to transparency across its operations, the Houston Independent School District (HISD) became one of the first large urban school districts to release an Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund dashboard to the public.

Starting today, the dashboard allows the public to see how and where the district is spending the \$1.16 billion in ESSER funds it has received from the federal government. The interactive dashboard displays ESSER allocations and encumbrances allocated for 2021-2022, which are broken down by centrally funded programs, campus programs, and campus staff.

“We are excited to release the ESSER transparency dashboard today,” said HISD Superintendent Millard House II. “This dashboard will allow anyone anywhere to see exactly where we are spending federal dollars. A core commitment of our strategic plan is building trust and reliability for our families and community. We believe that being fully transparent with how the district is spending its ESSER funds – which are public dollars – is a big step toward that goal.”


In total, the district has received \$1.16 billion in ESSER II and III funds, which must be expended by September 30, 2024. To date the district has allocated \$607.81 million and spent or encumbered \$319.15 million. Expenditures are made in alignment with the district’s strategic commitments and focused on addressing the near and long-term impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on HISD and its students.


ESSER II funds were made available by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021, which was signed into law on December 27, 2020. ESSER III funds were made available by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, which was signed into law on March 11, 2021. ESSER funds are provided to help districts address the impact COVID-19 has had on schools, as well as allow them safely to reopen and sustain the same operation of schools.


The ESSER transparency dashboard can be found on the district's [External Funding website](#).

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the eighth-largest in the United States, with 276 schools and nearly 197,000 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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