

ANALYSIS OF MS LEA ESSER FUND USE & ARP OPPORTUNITIES

Strategic Engagement & Initiative
Casey Family Programs

ESSER Funding to Mississippi LEAs



 ESSER (CARES)

 ESSER (CRRSA)

 ESSER (ARP)

OVERVIEW

- About ESSER Funding
- Eligible Uses
- Fund Use Challenges
- Fund Use in Mississippi
- Best Practices



About Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER)

Congress set aside approximately \$13.2 billion of the \$30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund through the Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund). Signed into law on March 27, 2020, the Department awarded these grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the Nation.

By analyzing the ways LEAs have used the first 2 rounds of ESSER funding, we seek to highlight areas of opportunity for ESSER ARP investment.

Goals of ESSER Funding

To address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the Nation.

Any expense could potentially be eligible, but funds focus on:

- Helping schools safely reopen,
 - (e.g. enhanced cleaning, sanitation supplies, etc.)
- Sustaining the safe operation of schools, and
 - (e.g. social distancing furnishings, improved air circulation, expanded/outdoor learning spaces etc.)
- Addressing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Nation's students.
 - (e.g. extended day/year programming, 1:1 tutoring, counseling, etc.)

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ESSER FUNDING GROUPS

ESSER (CARES)

March 27, 2020

- Aimed at preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19.
- ESSER funds may be used for the same allowable purposes as ESSER II and ARP ESSER, including hiring new staff and avoiding layoffs.



ESSER II (CRRSA)

January 5, 2021

An LEA should use funds for:

- addressing learning loss,
- preparing schools for reopening, and
- testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings
- ESSER II funds may be used for the same allowable purposes as ESSER and ARP ESSER, including hiring new staff and avoiding layoffs.



ARP ESSER

March 11, 2021

An LEA must spend 20% of its total ARP ESSER allocation to

- address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as:
 - summer learning or summer enrichment,
 - extended day,
 - comprehensive afterschool programs, or
 - extended school year programs, and
- ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.

Funding Formulas

State Education Authority (SEA) allocations are in the same proportion as Part A of Title I of the ESEA of 1965, as amended, in fiscal year 2019.

- SEA may retain 10% for administrative overhead.
- The remaining funds are required to be distributed to LEAs in proportion to the Part A of Title I of the ESEA of 1965, as amended, in fiscal year :
 - 2019 for ESSER (CARES)
 - 2020 for ESSER II (CRRSA)
 - 2020 for ESSER ARP

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Example:

ESSER (CARES) has a total of **\$13,229,265,000** in funding.

Mississippi receives **1.28%** of all Part I of Title I funds in 2019

$\$13,229,265,000 \times 1.28\% = \textbf{\$169,883,002}$ in funding for MS SEA

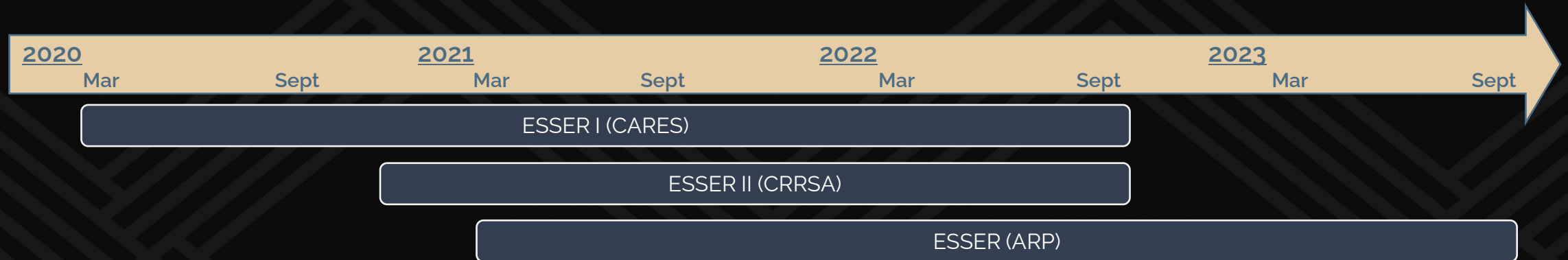
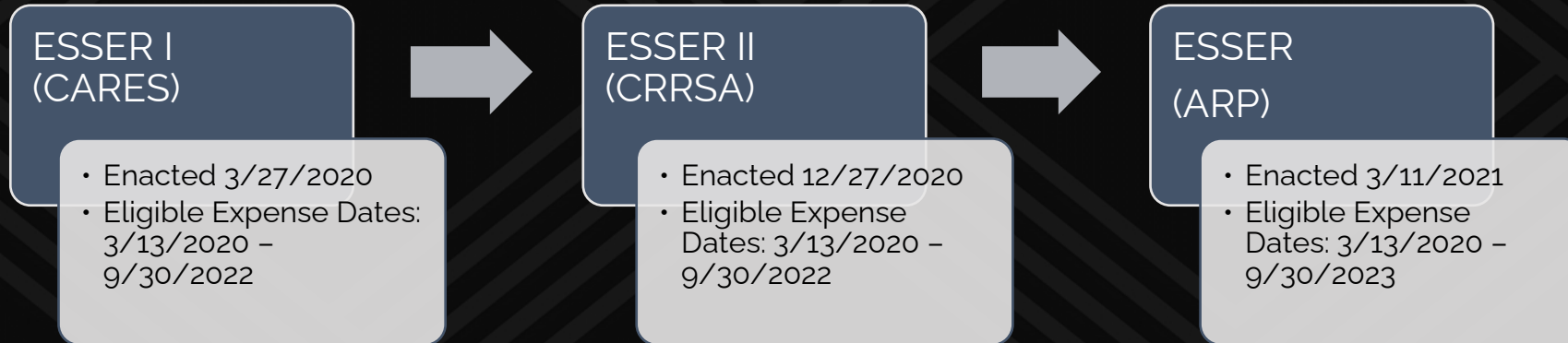
MS SEA reserves 10% or **\$16,988,300** for Administration

$\$169,883,002 - \$16,988,300 = \textbf{\$152,894,702}$ in funding for disbursement to LEAs

Greenwood-LeFlore receives **2.26%** of all MS Part I of Title I funds in 2019

$\$152,894,702 \times 2.26\% = \textbf{\$3,455,420}$ in funding for Greenwood-LeFlore LEA

Funding Timeline



ELIGIBLE USES



Eligible Uses



Any activity authorized by the ESEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), or the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins).



Coordination of LEA preparedness and response efforts with state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses with other agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.



Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.



Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs.



Training and professional development for LEA staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.

Eligible Uses (cont.)



Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of an LEA, including buildings operated by such agency.



Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures, including how to provide meals, technology for online learning, guidance on IDEA requirements, and ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all applicable requirements.



Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students served by the LEA that aids in regular and substantive educational interactions between students and their classroom teachers, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.



Providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools.



Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.

Eligible Uses (cont.)



Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care, of the local educational agency, including by–



Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction.



Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.



Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment.



Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.

Eligible Uses (cont.)



School facility repairs and improvements to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.



Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification, and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.



Developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.



Other activities that are necessary to maintain operations and continuity of services and continuing to employ existing staff.

FUND USE CHALLENGES



ONE-TIME Funds

Unlike conventional Title 1 funding on which the funding formula is based, ESSER funds are one-time funds

- **Use of non-recurring funding is not recommended for:**
 - Additional staffing,
 - Long term programs, or
 - Regular Operating Costs (e.g. utility bills, food services, transportation).
- **Generally Advisable uses**
 - Immediate needs for consumables like masks, sanitation, etc.
 - Investment
 - Physical Plant,
 - Long-term use curriculum development, or
 - Durable or immoveable goods.
 - Temporary programs used for a finite duration,
 - Teacher training, or
 - Virtual Learning Technology and infrastructure.

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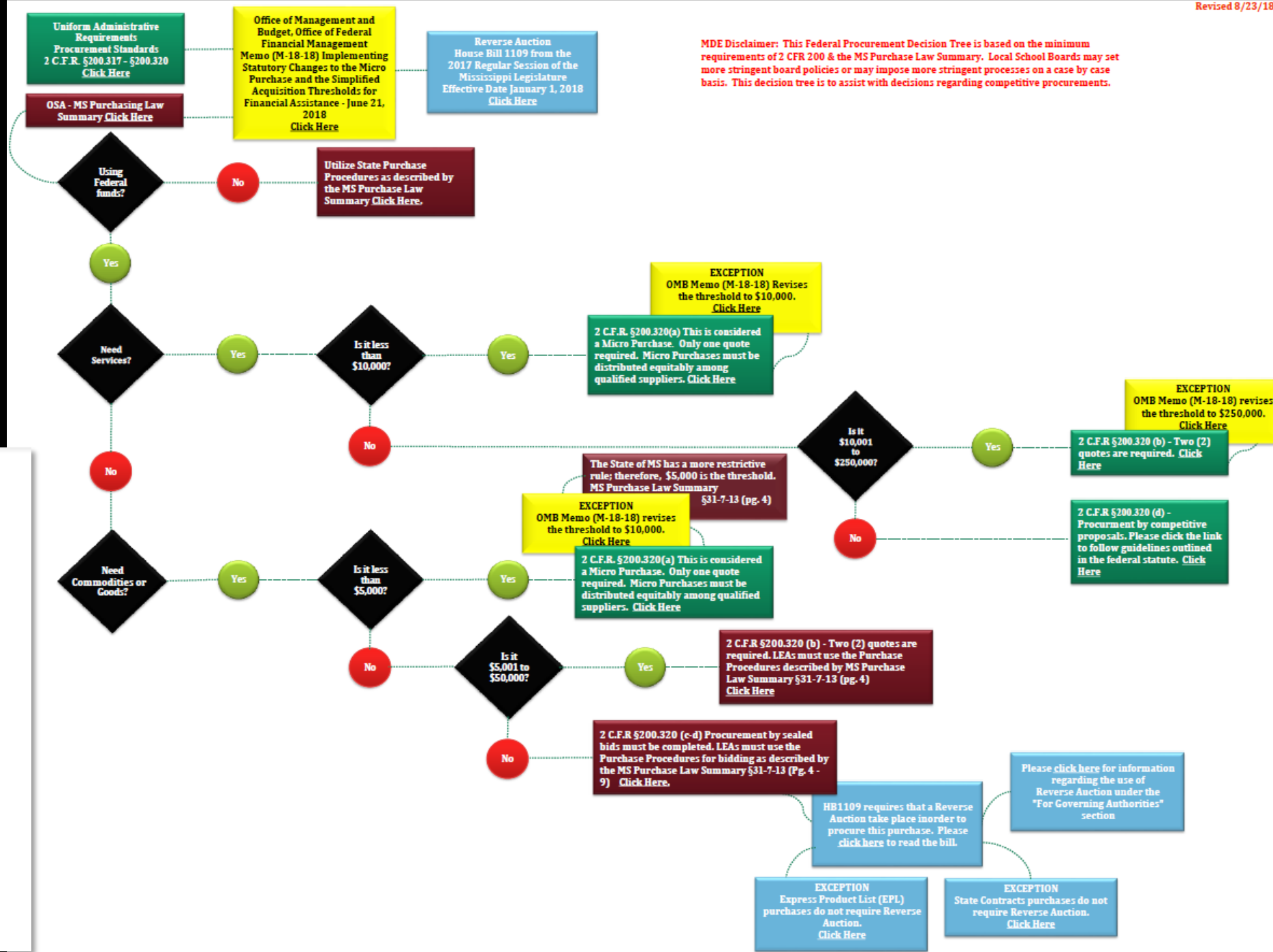


Layers of Regulations

- State of Mississippi DOE Procurement Manual (141 pages)
- Education Department's General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR)
- Federal Government's Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG)
- The Davis-Bacon Act (Re: Prevailing Wage Monitoring)



Procurement Complexity



Office of Chief of Operations
Dr. Felicia Gavin
Chief Operations Officer

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents

From: Felicia Gavin, Chief of Operations *FG*

Date: August 27, 2018

Subject: Changes to Federal Purchasing Rules

On June 20, 2018, The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a Memorandum regarding "Implementing Statutory Changes to the Micro-Purchase and the Simplified Acquisition Thresholds for Financial Assistance". The implementation of this guidance allows maximum flexibility in granting an exception in allowing grantees to use a higher threshold for micro purchase. However, grantees also must adhere to state and local procurement standards to the extent those standards are more restrictive than federal requirements. (2 CFR § 200.318(b)). This memo will supersede the guidance issued from the MDE on June 22, 2017.

Accordingly, consistent with federal and Mississippi standards, grantees using federal funds to make purchases of *goods (commodities)* under \$5,000 and *services* under \$10,000 are "micro purchases". The purchase orders for micro purchases may be awarded without soliciting any competitive quotes if the costs are deemed reasonable. To the extent practicable, these purchases should be distributed equitably among qualified suppliers.

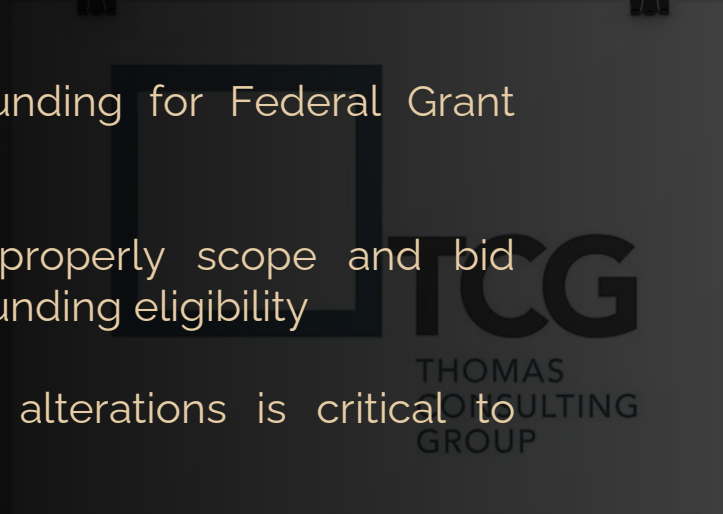
All federal purchases of *goods (commodities)* between \$5,001 to \$50,000 and *services* between \$10,001 to \$250,000 must have two (2) price quotes from qualified sources.

Any purchase of *goods (commodities)* above \$50,000 must adhere to House Bill 1109, passed during the 2017 Mississippi Legislative Session. There are exceptions to the bill that include state contract and Express Products List (EPL) purchases. Any services over \$250,000 will need to follow the competitive bidding process outlined in the Uniform Administrative Requirement (2 CFR § 200.320(c)-(d)).

Please ensure that you make the necessary changes to your board policies, procedures and practices to ensure compliance with federal and state audits.

Local Procurement Capacity

- Most districts are expanding funding for Federal Grant Management Staffing
- Individual LEAs will need to properly scope and bid construction projects to ensure funding eligibility
- Coordination of physical plant alterations is critical to district-wide serviceability
- Funding timeline may constrain available contracting resources in regions
- Project Management and construction timelines may pose threats to funding draw downs
- Unique nature of major investment on this scale may exceed encumbrance and payment processing capacity of LEAs

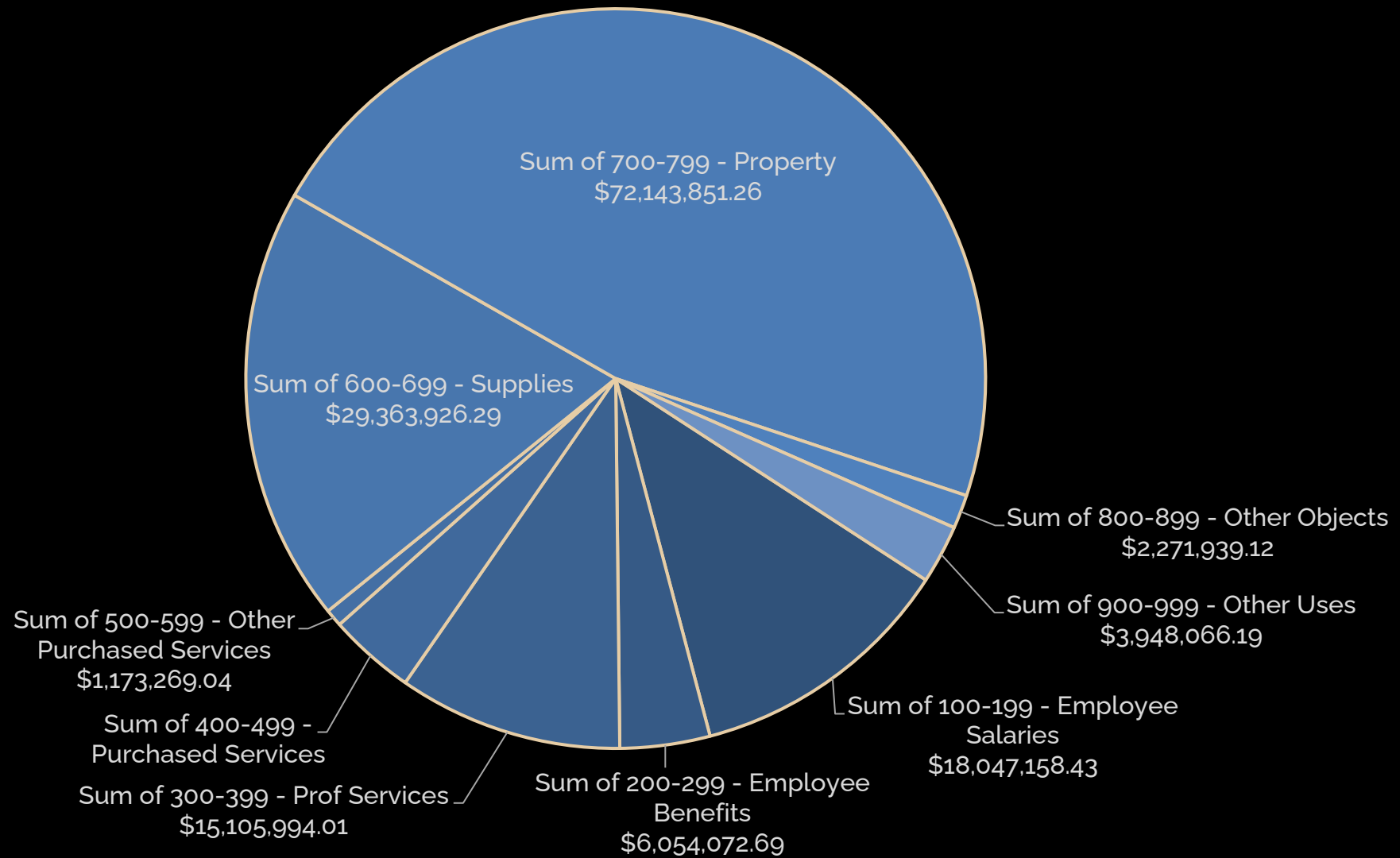


ESSER FUND USE

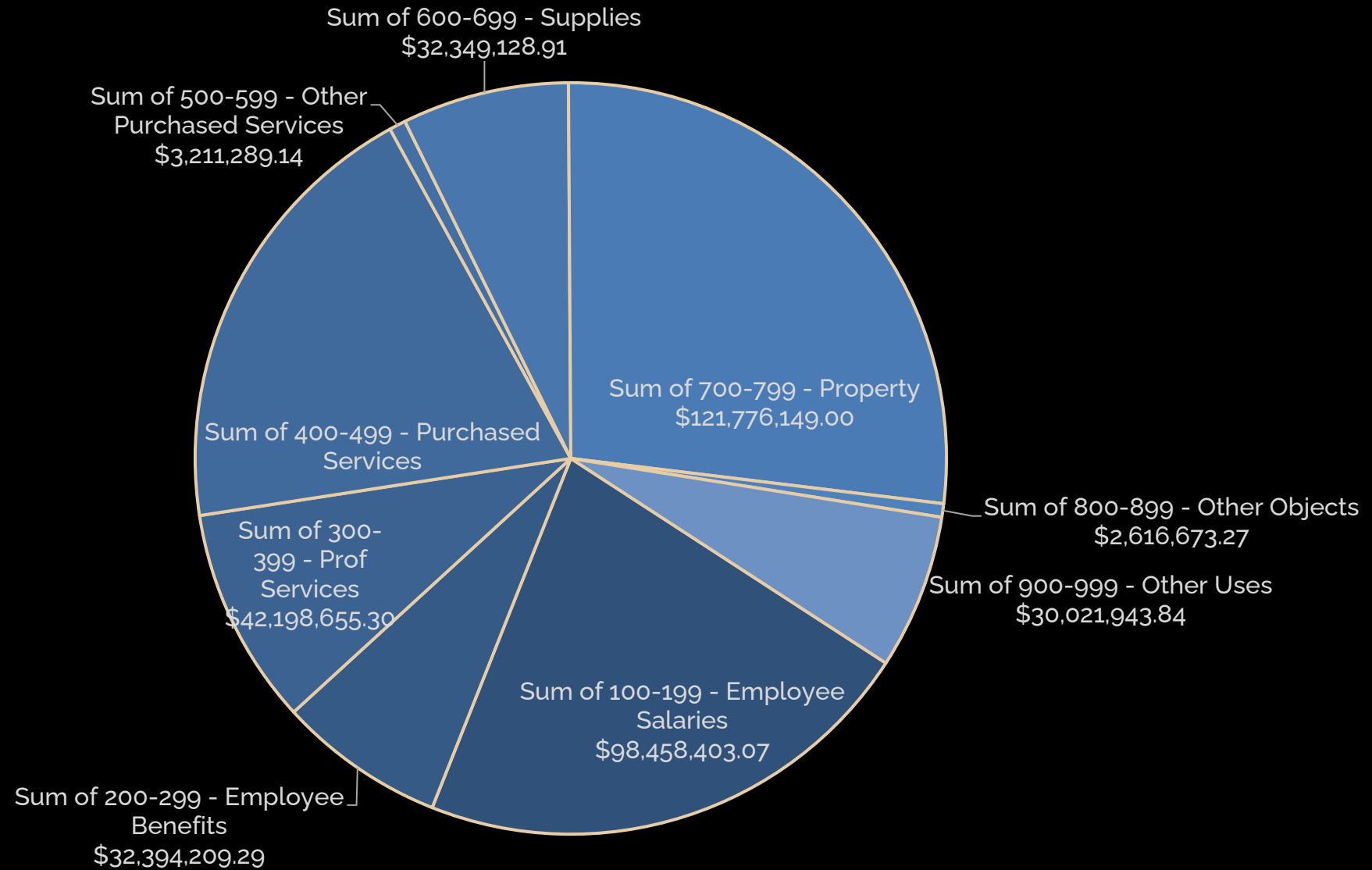
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Mississippi 2020 ESSER (CARES) by Expenditure Code



Mississippi 2021 ESSER (CRRSA) Spending by Expenditure Codes

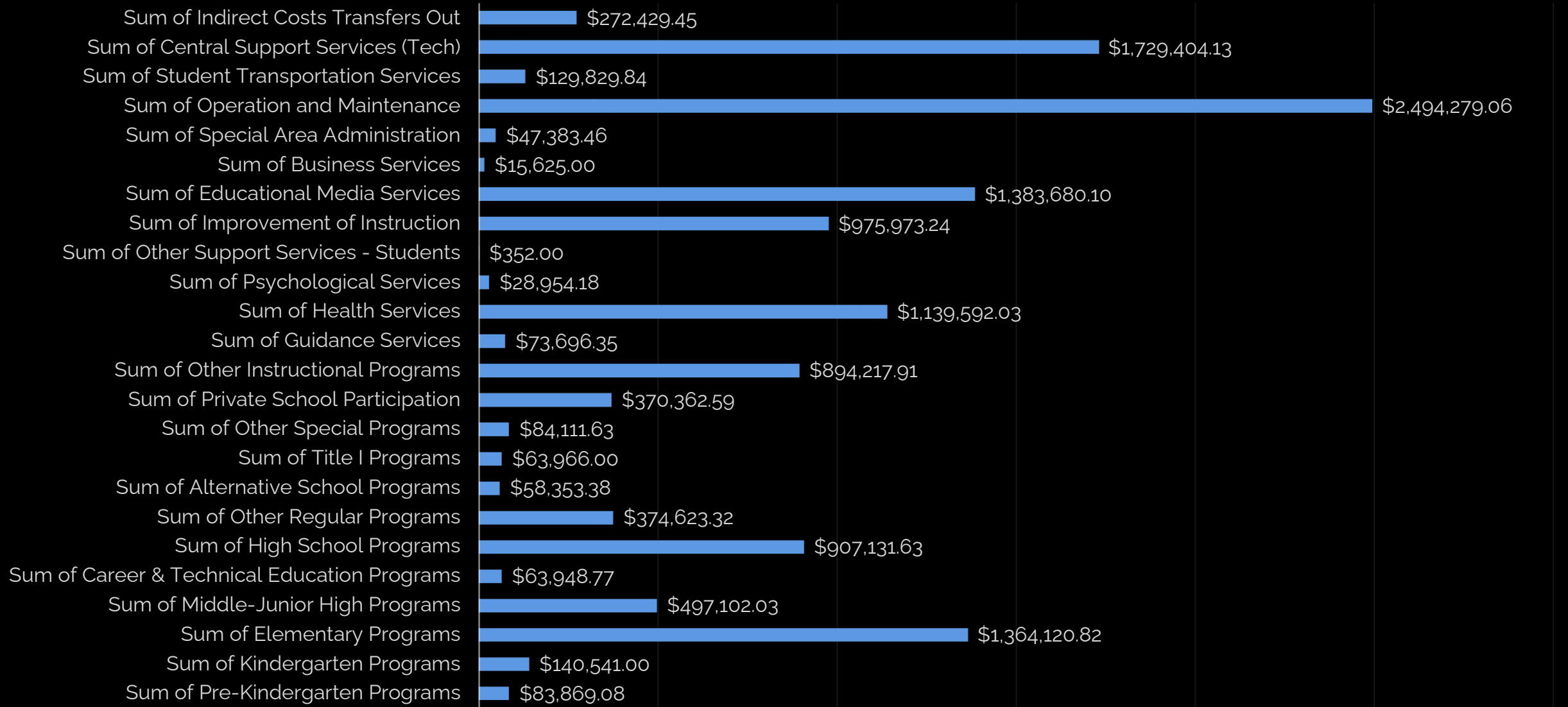


Schools of Interest

- Cleveland School District (Bolivar County)
- Greenville Public Schools (Washington County)
- Greenwood Leflore Consolidated School District
- Hollandale School District (Washington County)
- Humphreys County School District
- Leland School District (Washington County)
- North Bolivar Consolidated School District
- Western Line School District (Washington County)
- Yazoo City Municipal School District

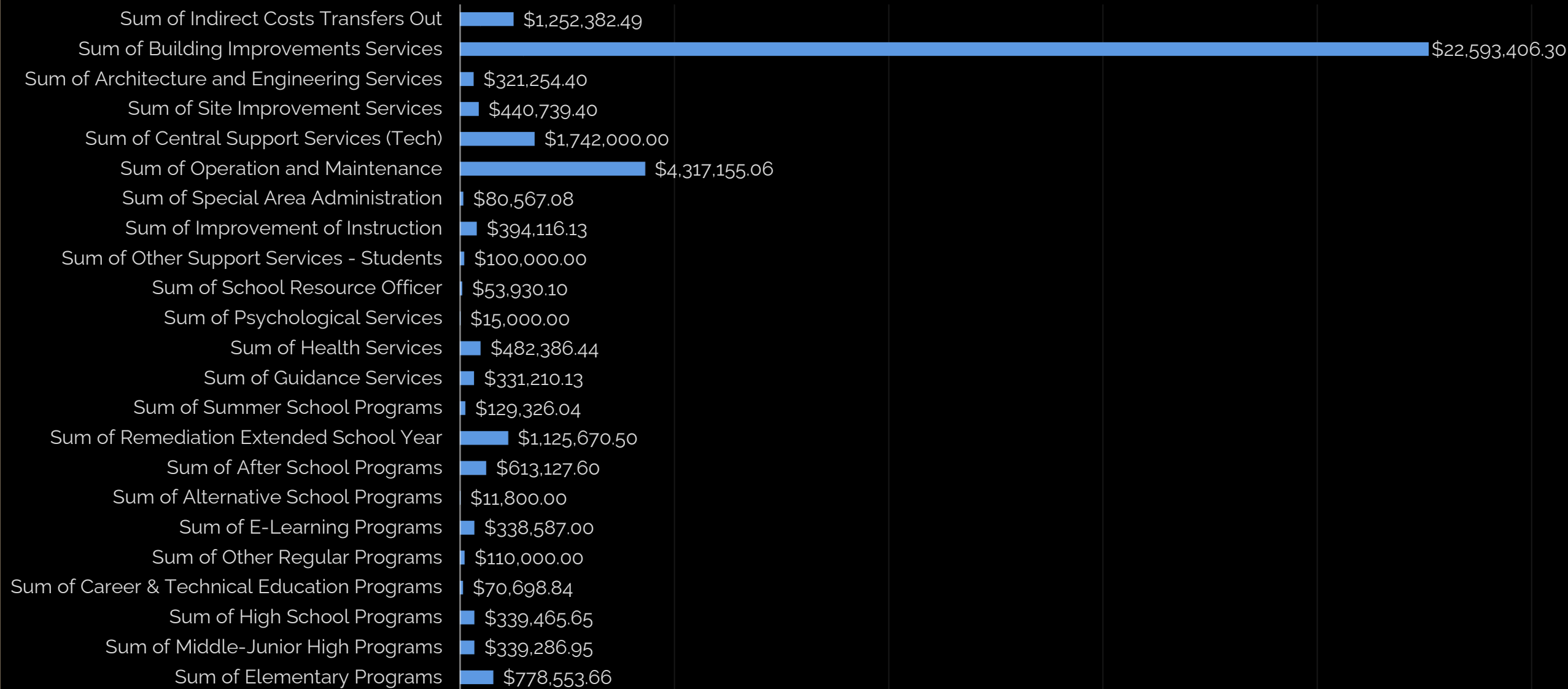
Schools of Interest

2020 ESSER (CARES) Spending by Detailed Purpose



Schools of Interest

2021 ESSER (CRRSA) Spending by Detailed Purpose



Greenwood-LeFlore ESSER Use

Spending Category	2020 ESSER	2021 ESSER II
After School Programs	\$0.00	\$196,182.00
Building Improvements Services	\$0.00	\$11,486,661.97
Career & Technical Education Programs	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
Central Support Services (Tech)	\$1,320,000.00	\$1,300,000.00
E-Learning Programs	\$0.00	\$300,000.00
Elementary Programs	\$0.00	\$150,000.00
Health Services	\$455,397.40	\$400,000.00
High School Programs	\$0.00	\$90,000.00
Improvement of Instruction	\$125,763.00	\$25,000.00
Indirect Costs Transfers Out	\$204,000.00	\$600,000.00
Middle-Junior High Programs	\$0.00	\$60,000.00
Operation and Maintenance	\$1,144,382.74	\$600,000.00
Other Regular Programs	\$106,723.32	\$0.00
Other Support Services - Students	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
Private School Participation	\$146,470.04	\$0.00
Remediation Extended School Year	\$0.00	\$348,768.00
Special Area Administration	\$18,022.50	\$18,033.00
Student Transportation Services	\$0.00	\$68,716.03

Greenwood-LeFlore 2020 ESSER Use

Function Code	Total	Description
Other Regular Programs	\$106,723.32	Online student learning platform and online license subscriptions/software for teachers and students
Private School Participation	\$146,470.04	Equitable Share for salary for custodian to clean and sanitize school classrooms/buildings daily due to COVID-19; Equitable Share for supplies and other essentials to clean and sanitize the classrooms and buildings due to COVID-19, to include but limited to, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, gloves, masks, thermometers, bathroom/floor cleaner, mop buckets, social distancing decals disposable plates/cutlery, other essentials due to COVID-19.; Equitable Share for equipment, to include but not limited to, chrome books, ipads, wifi connectivity, touch-less temperature kiosk, etc.
Health Services	\$455,397.40	Supplies and other essentials needed due to COVID-19, to include but limited to, hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, face shields, thermometers, other essentials due to COVID-19.
Improvement of Instruction	\$125,763.00	Equipment, to include but not limited to, chrome books, other COVID-19 technology equipment; Windows Supplemental Grant - Windows devices for teachers to support instruction
Special Area Administration	\$18,022.50	Portion (15%) of salary + benefits for federal programs director. Year 1 (2020-2021)
Operation and Maintenance	\$1,144,382.74	Supplies and other essentials to clean and sanitize the classrooms and buildings due to COVID-19, to include but limited to, disinfectant wipes, bathroom/floor cleaner, mop buckets, disposable plates/cutlery, other essentials due to COVID-19.; Equipment for use in combating COVID-19, such as carpet cleaning machines, touch-less water fountains, desks, desk shields, touch-less temperature kiosk, air purifiers, and other essentials and other essentials
Central Support Services (Tech)	\$1,320,000.00	Hot spots and Internet connectivity for students and staff
Indirect Costs Transfers Out	\$204,000.00	Indirect Cost

Greenwood-LeFlore 2021 ESSER Use

Function Code	Total	Description
Elementary Programs	\$150,000.00	Online learning programs to address learning loss among students;Online textbook software for students to address learning loss
Middle-Junior High Programs	\$60,000.00	Online learning programs to address learning loss among students;Online textbook software for students to address learning loss
High School Programs	\$90,000.00	Online learning programs to address learning loss among students;Online textbook software for students to address learning loss
Career & Technical Education Programs	\$50,000.00	CTE equipment to accelerate learning opportunities for students
E-Learning Programs	\$300,000.00	Online student learning platform for teachers and students
After School Programs	\$196,182.00	After school/Saturday School: Teachers - \$35/hour @ 2 hours/day @ 3 days/week @ 15 weeks; Asst. Teachers - \$17.50/hour @ 2 hours/day @ 3 days/week @ 15 weeks at AMANDA ELZY JR HIGH SCHOOL (4211005)BANKSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (4211003), CLAUDINE F BROWN ELMENTARY SCHOOL (4211022), DAVIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (4211008), EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (4211012), GREENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL (4211016), GREENWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL (4211032), LEFLORE COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (4211021), & LEFLORE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL (4211020)
Remediation Extended School Year	\$348,768.00	Summer 2021: Teachers - \$35/hour @ 4 hours/day @ 4 days/week for 4 weeks; Asst. Teachers - \$17.50/hour @ 4 hours/day @ 4 days/week for 4 weeks at AMANDA ELZY HIGH SCHOOL (4211004), AMANDA ELZY JR HIGH SCHOOL (4211005), BANKSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (4211003), CLAUDINE F BROWN ELMENTARY SCHOOL (4211022), DAVIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (4211008), EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (4211012), GREENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL (4211016), GREENWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL (4211032), LEFLORE COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (4211021), & LEFLORE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL (4211020)
Health Services	\$400,000.00	Supplies and other essentials, such as, hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, face shields, etc. to prepare and respond to COVID-19
Other Support Services - Students	\$100,000.00	Virtual therapy options for students with disabilities; Social emotional learning materials and resources to respond to COVID-19
Improvement of Instruction	\$25,000.00	MTSS Professional development for teachers and staff
Special Area Administration	\$18,033.00	Portion (15%) of federal programs director's salary + benefits
Operation and Maintenance	\$600,000.00	Supplies to clean and sanitize the classrooms and buildings due to COVID-19, such as, disinfectant wipes, bathroom/floor cleaner, mop buckets, etc.; Equipment, such as, carpet cleaning machines, touchless water fountains, desks touchless temperature kiosk, air purifiers, etc., in preparing and responding to COVID-19
Student Transportation Services	\$68,716.03	Extended school stipends for bus drivers and related benefits
Central Support Services (Tech)	\$1,300,000.00	Internet connectivity and hot spots for students and staff
Building Improvements Services	\$11,486,661.97	Upgrade of the HVAC systems to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities. Window replacements to improve the air quality in classrooms.; Renovations/upgrades to bathrooms for proper sanitation and social distancing purposes; Replacement of all carpet with floor tiling at all locations in the district
Indirect Costs Transfers Out	\$600,000.00	indirect cost

EMERGING BEST PRACTICES



Use Opportunities for ARP Funds

Long Term Curriculum-Related Investment

- Textbooks, portable hardware (tablets), programming for remote instruction

Investing in Teachers

- Professional Development opportunities, instructional aids and resources

Social/emotional learning

- Create spaces and resources that address students' social and emotional intelligence and coping skills

Hands-on STEAM resources

- Maker spaces, durable science equipment, and activities promote learning by trying, doing, failing, and trying again

Flexible learning environments

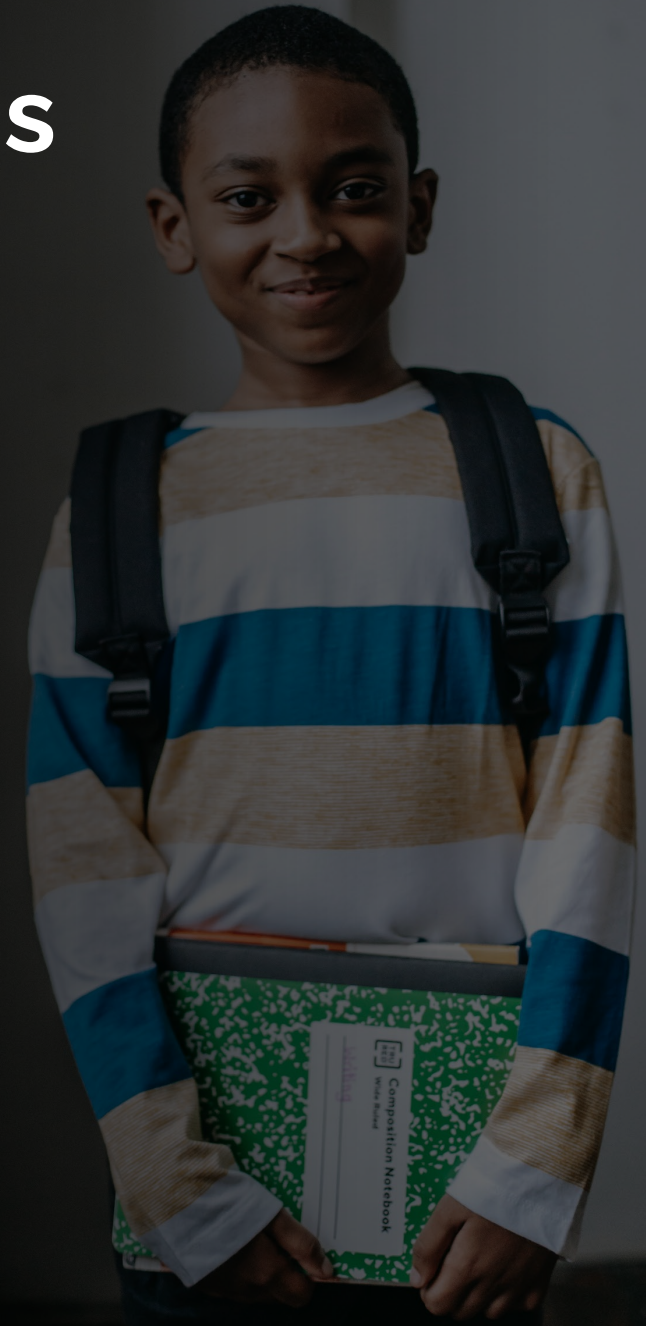
- Outdoor classrooms can be created and deconstructed in moments

Accommodating diverse learning styles

- Think modular furniture that can support individual or group work, and kinesthetic movement for students who think best when they aren't sitting still

Emergency response, planning, and interagency communication

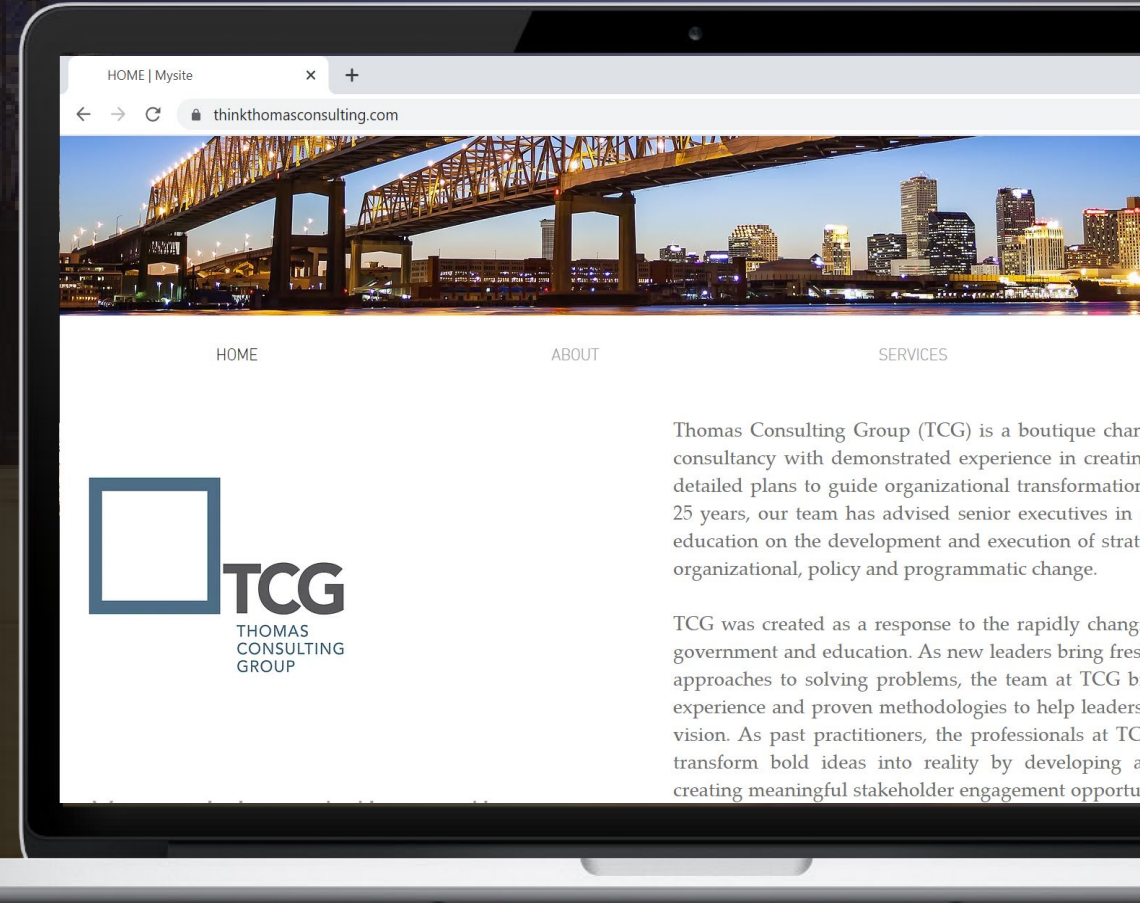
- Establishing remote learning protocols and resources that can be used for any future outbreaks or during disasters like hurricanes



Discussion

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Appendix



- MS ESSER Data Workbook
- MS ESSER Funding Allocation by LEA
- MS ESSER Funding Allocation by Schools of Interest
- Greenwood-LeFlore ESSER Detailed Spending

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