

## **FY 2021-2022 Virginia Beach Budget Response to Council Questions**

**Question Number:** 10

**Question:** When will we learn what the estimated subject federal school dollars?

**Date Requested:** 3/21/21

**Requested By:** Councilmember Moss

**Department:** Schools/ Budget and Management Services

**Response:** The American Rescue Plan included additional appropriations towards the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). ESSER funds are distributed to states based upon each state's actual school enrollment population for the most recent fiscal year in which data is available (in this case, Federal Fiscal Year 2020). The United States Department of Education has announced that \$2.1 billion will be available to the Commonwealth of Virginia from ESSER appropriations. Under the terms of the legislation, 90% of the funds appropriated to the states must be transmitted to a state's local public school divisions via each division's actual student enrollment under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary School Education Act of 1965. Thus, almost \$1.9 billion will be available to the local school divisions of the Commonwealth. Once funds are received by the Virginia Department of Education, they will be apportioned to each school division. It is not yet known if the U.S. Department of Education will release funds to the states in full, but the Department of Education has committed to begin the process of release by the end of March. For comparison, after Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which also appropriated funds to another round of ESSER allocations, the United States Department of Education announced their allocation table to each state in early January, but the Virginia Department of Education did not announce its distributions to local school divisions until the end of January. At that time, the Virginia Department of Education created an application that were due by April. Thus, there will still be several steps for VBCPS to undertake to actually receive the federal funds even after its portion of the funds are known.

Additionally, there are other sources of potential funding through the American Rescue Plan Act that will be available to states for educational purposes and that may ultimately come available for VBCPS.