

ESSER Monitoring Town Hall Meeting

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Session Agenda

Welcome & Thank you for attending!

- Late liquidation/Liquidation Extension
- How/When to apply
- Updates from the ESSER Monitoring Team



ARP ESSER

- What ARP Act grants does late liquidation apply to?
 - ARP ESSER 90% grants school districts & charter schools
 - <u>SEA Set aside grants</u>:
 - 7% set aside grant awarded to school districts & charter schools
 - 2.5 % set aside grant awarded to Neglected & Delinquent facilities, Intermediate Units, PRRIs, Charter Schools for the Deaf & Blind & CTCs
 - EANS II programming Educational Assistance to Nonpublic Schools Administered by Intermediate Units on behalf of PDE.



Late Liquidation

- Obligation date September 30, 2024
- Liquidation date December 29, 2024
- To apply and be eligible for late liquidation, all ARP funds must be obligated
- If applying for late liquidation do not submit a final expenditure report (FER)
- Late Liquidation extends the period of liquidation not obligation date
- Process:
- USDE has a template each LEA completes, PDE sends to USDE for approval
 - PDE/USDE approves on a case-by-case basis
- G5 Email, January 9, 2024: <u>ARP ESSER Liquidation Extension Letter</u>. <u>Updated Technical FAQs for ARP ESSER and ARP EANS Liquidation Extensions</u>. <u>View the ARP ESSER and ARP EANS Liquidation Extension Request template here</u>.</u>
- <u>CCSSOARPESSER Liquidationfactsheet2024 FlowPaper FlipBook</u>
 - Attend ESSER Office Hours every Monday at 1 p.m. <u>https://zoom.us/j/97321788286</u>



Late Liquidation Considerations

- Liquidation extensions are not automatic; requires documentation and approval
- A liquidation extension might extend the timeline for receiving goods and delivering services under binding written contracts made by September 30, 2024, but there are issues to consider
- LEAs may not use ARP ESSER funds to compensate their own employees during the extended liquidation period.
- The liquidation extension request process is distinct from prepaying contracts with ESSER funds. A primary goal of extending the liquidation deadline is to give LEAs additional time to pay for ESSER services.
- If your liquidation amount isn't final, it can be corrected via an amendment process



Late Liquidation Process Details

Late Liquidation Submission to PDE opens September 3rd through December 30th

• LEA Actions:

- Complete the USDE spreadsheet/template
- Email Subject: Late Liquidation Request
- Submit liquidation template to Laurie Mount (Imount@pa.gov), your Regional Coordinator and the ED, ARP ESSER resource account (RA-EDARPESSER@pa.gov)

• PDE Review Process:

- PDE Reviews application
- PDE will send validated liquidation requests in batches to USDE
- USDE approval times are typically 2-3 weeks
- LEA is informed of Approved Late Liquidation and provided with next steps



Late Liquidation Process Details Con't

Approved Late Liquidation Next Steps

- LEA Actions:
 - When the LEA is ready for drawdown, they must make a request to the same individuals and provide appropriate back up documentation to certify the drawdown
 - Email Subject: Late Liquidation Drawdown Request
 - Submit liquidation drawdown request to Laurie Mount (Imount@pa.gov), your Regional Coordinator and the ED, ARP ESSER resource account (RA-EDARPESSER@pa.gov)
- PDE Review Process:
 - PDE will review documentation and request the payment be released by USDE.



Guidance from USDE



Allowability – New Guidance (!) on Multi-Year Subscriptions/Licenses

June 2023 Guidance: <u>TA-on-activities-continuing-beyond-E3d.pdf (ed.gov)</u>

- "The question of whether services may extend a reasonable time beyond the obligation and liquidation period is fact-specific and should be considered by the State on a *case-by-case basis*."
- LEA should document, at the time it enters into the contract, its analysis leading to the decision to enter into the multi-year contract. **Factors to document include**:
 - the per-month cost of the multi-year contract is less than the cost of a shorter-term contract;
 - the software license will be needed throughout the period of the contract;
 - the LEA is allowed to enter into the contract extending beyond the obligation and liquidation period under State and local procurement rules; and
 - prudent business practices and internal controls support entering into the contract



Allowability: Using ARP ESSER funds for multi-year contracts

- May be a permissible practice, however, LEAs should review USDE's June 26th guidance before making a determination as to whether the LEA's circumstance meets the required criteria.
- However, under limited circumstances where a grantee or subgrantee timely obligates ESSER or GEER funds, ESSER- or GEER-funded activities may continue for a <u>reasonable time beyond</u> the liquidation period (including an approved late liquidation period).
- As noted in question E-3.d., under no circumstances may the services extend beyond the date on which the funds revert to the U.S. Department of Treasury (31 USC § 1552), which occurs <u>four years after the obligation deadlines</u>.



Contact/Mission

For more information on Late Liquidation, please visit PDE's website at www.education.pa.gov

The mission of the Department of Education is to ensure that every learner has access to a world-class education system that academically prepares children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. Further, the Department seeks to establish a culture that is committed to improving opportunities throughout the commonwealth by ensuring that technical support, resources, and optimal learning environments are available for all students, whether children or adults.