

MINUTES



Commissioner's Task Force on ESSER II and EANS Distribution of Money

Friday, March 12th, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jim Porter called the weekly meeting of the Commissioner's Task Force to order at 3:00p.m. on Friday, March 12th, 2021. The meeting was conducted via video conference and was live streamed for the public to observe and listen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Adam Thomas made a motion to approve the agenda for the March 12th meeting, and Bert Lewis had seconded it. Motion passed (19-0).

MOTION
(00:10:10)

ATTENDANCE:

All Task Force members attended by video conference:

Jim Porter	Roberta Lewis
Janet Waugh	Frank Harwood
Pat Pettey	Tracy Callard
Adam Thomas	Jason Winbolt
Simeon Russell	Brad Bergsma
Lisa Peters	Janet Eaton
Mike Argabright	Nick Compagnone
Jamie Rumford	Adam Proffitt
Alicia Thompson	Melissa Rooker

APPROVAL OF MARCH 5TH MINUTES

Jamie Rumford made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 5th meeting, and Adam Thomas had seconded it. Motion passed (19-0).

MOTION
(00:10:50)

STATUS UPDATE ON EANS PROCESS – Tate Toedman

(00:11:19)

Tate Toedman stated that at this point, the application has been created in preparation of the upcoming launch, the service center menu (also known as the catalog) has been developed, platform identified (Kansas CommonApp), and lastly the FAQ application sheet and excel template have been developed. Tate mentioned the pre-launch activities that have been planned to help schools prepare for the application, which include the activities the following:

- Webinar held on 03/11 for non-public schools; recorded and will be posted here when closed captioning has been added - [Title Services \(ksde.org\)](https://www.ksde.org)
- School FAQ in development, including examples of each allowable use.
- Application materials inc. budget template available online for preview.

He also discussed that the launch timeline has been shifted to provide private schools more time to prepare their applications. The EANS Application due date will now be April 2nd, 2021 (due date was originally March 26th). The EANS application will now launch on March 22nd which will be in line with the federal 30-day limit. The final deadline for the EANS application will be 11:59pm on April 2nd, and then the first batch of EANS applications will be prepared for review by the Task Force on April 9th, 2021. The Kansas State Board of Education will have a special meeting on April 19th, 2021 to approve EANS applications.

Tate discussed the revised timeline to the Task Force once more, emphasizing that the webinar occurred on March 11th. Other items that were mentioned in the timeline were EANS office hours which will include a zoom for private schools to ask any questions they may have to KSDE staff.

ESSER OVERVIEW – Commissioner Watson

(00:20:43)

Commissioner Watson started off the discussion by stating that there are now three ESSER funding mechanisms, as ESSER III was most recently passed. He mentioned the Task Force will mainly focus on ESSER II and EANS at this time, but the Task Force will eventually move their focus to ESSER III and EANS II.

Commissioner Watson then mentioned that ESSER II has multiple components; almost \$370 million in total funds allocated to Kansas. 90% of these funds will directly flow to the school districts. There is a minimum LEA distribution (\$332.8 million) as it is federally mandated which will be allocated through the Title I formula.

- LEA "True Up" – Ensures all districts receive at least \$300 per student (\$11.5 million).
- Special Education – Additional set-aside for LEAs split across 2021-22 and 2022-23 (\$24 million).
- Schools for the Deaf and Blind – set aside as schools do not receive funds through LEA distributions (\$0.2 million).
- SEA Administration – (KSDE Administration) \$1.8 million

Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

ESSERAPPLICATION LAUNCH PROCESS AND TIMELINE – Doug Boline

(00:34:33)

Doug Boline first described the timeline that has been set for the ESSER II applications. The timeline for the ESSER II applications will be the following:

- ESSER II/CommonApp Webinar (date of webinar is undetermined)
- 03/17 - ESSER II Application Launch
- 03/24 – ESSER II Office Hours

The cadence for ESSER II Application reviews will be:

- KSDE will screen applications submitted on a first-come, first serve basis.
- KSDE will share the pre-screened applications with the Task Force on Wednesdays as pre-read
- Bulk of ESSER II applications will be reviewed by the Task Force beginning on 04/16 following review of the EANS applications (which will be the focus on the 04/02 and 04/09 Task Force meetings).

Doug emphasized that the same lines of communication for the EANS applications will be the same for ESSER II applications such as webinars, feedback, office hours, fact sheet/frequently asked questions sheet will be created for easy review, etc.

ESSERAPPLICATION QUESTIONS AND REVIEW PROCESS – Doug Boline

(00:36:43)

Doug Boline then mentioned that the ESSER II applications should enable the Task Force to the following:

- Understand the impact of COVID-19 on the district and its students and the resulting needs to be addressed.
- Understand where prior federal COVID-19 funding for public K-12 education went and what it accomplished.
- Evaluate the district’s plan to use ESSER II to address COVID-19 needs and measure impact.
- Begin to gather data on ESSER expenditures on a regular basis in a way that captures the level of detail required for federal reporting and state oversight while minimizing district burden where possible.

Doug went over the oversight details in which the Task Force must ensure that the uses of funds a district is requesting is necessary, allowable, and reasonable. He mentioned that the ESSER II application aims to gather information critical to ensuring use of funds are necessary, allowable, and reasonable.

CONTINUED- ESSER APPLICATION QUESTIONS AND REVIEW PROCESS– Doug Boline

Doug mentioned that there will be a spreadsheet for districts to fill out similar to EANS. The application for ESSER II will require expenditure-level data to enable the Task Force to make informed decisions.

ESSER III & EANS II UPDATE– Commissioner Watson

(00:47:27)

Commissioner Watson wanted to briefly discuss ESSER III and EANS II with the Task Force, as it passed recently and has been signed by President Biden. ESSER II and ESSER III will be very similar to one another, although the timeline in which the funds must be used is 2024 (instead of 2023 for ESSER II).

EANS II is anticipated for a similar amount as EANS I. With EANS II, there will be a tight time frame but schools will not be able to be reimbursed for expenditures that happened in the past (as they were with EANS I).

Dean Zajic mentioned that if expenditures are not being spent as the district anticipated, then the KSDE will reach out to the district and try to help them resolve any unspent funds.

ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting at 3:52pm. The next meeting will occur on Friday, March 26th at 3:00pm.

(01:01:57)