



Dear Union #28 Community and Staff,

As we shared in our previous communication (on August 13, 2021) all Union 28 school districts will be receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds or ESSER III grants. District allocations are:

- Erving \$207,643
- Leverett \$177,018
- New Salem/Wendell \$190,981
- Shutesbury \$177,018

These funds are part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021 which provides additional federal funding for school districts to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Education portion of ARP (known as the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds or ESSER III) must be expended by September 30, 2024 and has to be used for purposes that can be linked to the Covid-19 pandemic and fit within the certain [priorities](#) set by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Superintendent and our School Committees will be expending the funds over the three fiscal years.

We began this process with the establishment of the ESSER III Idea Sharing committee. I would like to thank the members of our Union #28 community who volunteered their time to share their ideas as part of this committee on August 19th and 26th. Many thoughtful ideas were shared and the meetings were productive.

As we continue to plan for ways to best utilize these funds in our districts, we would love to hear from you!

A stakeholder listening session for all members of the Union 28 community, including school staff, is scheduled for Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Please join us from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 8 at [meet.google.com/exq-vxgn-zcz](https://meet.google.com/exq-vxgn-zcz).

We look forward to hearing all perspectives!

Thank you for your continued support of our schools,

Jennifer Culkeen, Superintendent