

Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief II (ESSER II) Fund grant

RASP/Federal Grant Programs Unit
February 2021



Welcome to the CRRSA Act ESSER II Fund application webinar!

- Housekeeping items before we begin:
 - The slides will be emailed later this evening to all registrants.
 - To preserve bandwidth, your video and microphone are turned off.
 - Use the Q & A feature at the bottom of the screen to ask questions (not Chat feature).
 - We will use the polling feature – your participation is appreciated (and it is anonymous)!



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ESSER II Fund: General Information

CRRSA Act: ESSER II Fund grant

- **Additional** emergency funding to address impact of COVID-19 (more than 3x ESSER I funding)
 - Purpose: prevent, prepare for, and respond to impacts of COVID-19
- Signed into law: December 27, 2020
- ESSER II Fund (Fund Code 115)
 - \$733.4 million to LEAs; Commissioner used discretionary \$ to get all LEAs up to \$75,841; plus an additional \$10,000 for mental health supports
 - Distributed based on FY21 Title IA share of total, but are not Title I funds
 - Similar application and process to ESSER I
 - Like ESSER I, ESSER II funds are **not** subject to supplement, not supplant rules
 - Equitable participation of private schools **does not** apply to this grant

A note on Equitable Services

- **ESSER II – no equitable services**
 - Congress created a separate program to be administered by DESE
- Equitable Services are still required for the following federal grants:
 - ESSER I
 - ESSA (Titles I, IIA, III, IV) & Immigrant Grant
 - IDEA (240 and 262)

Deadlines and fund availability

- Two options/deadlines

- Apply for FY21 grant – due 3/31/21

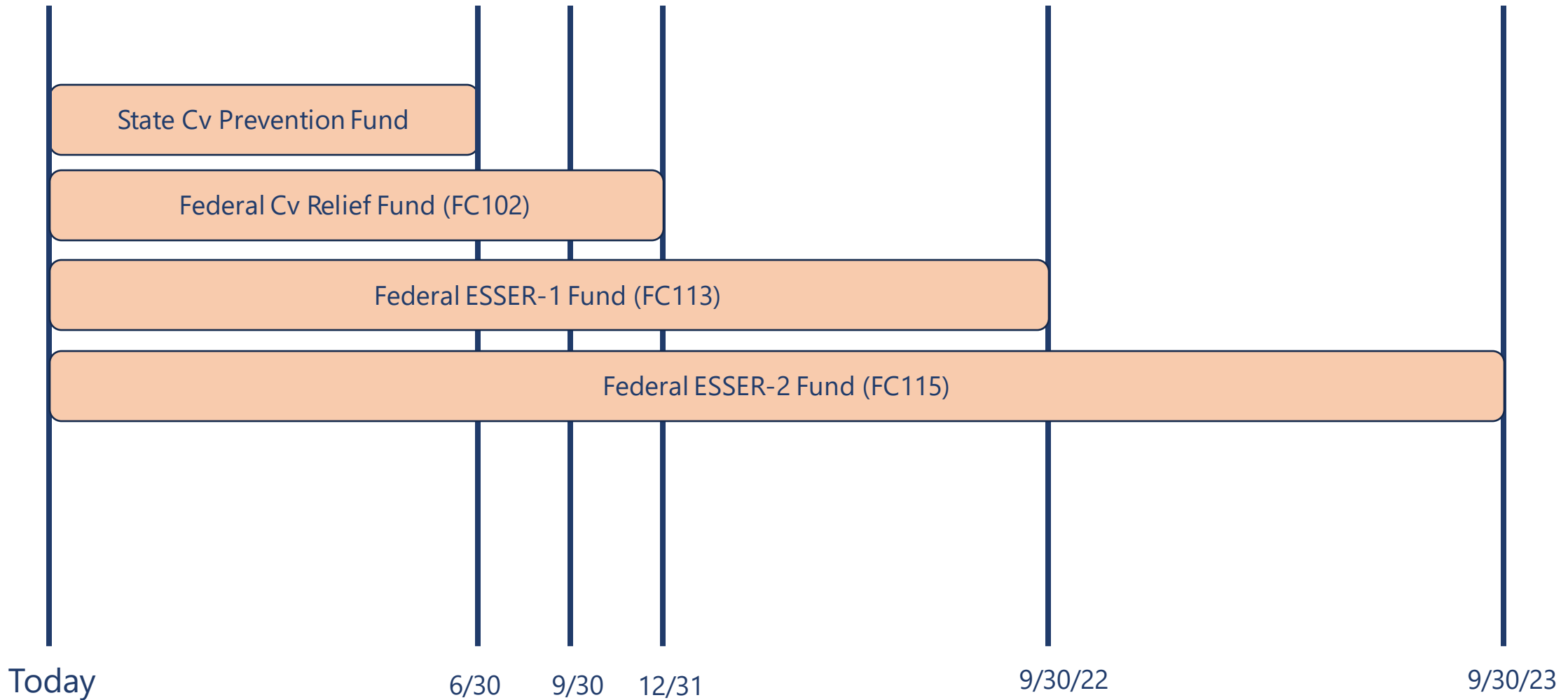
- Use if intend to obligate any funds in FY21 (this school year)
 - Initial payment will be received soon after approval of application
 - Balance of unclaimed/unspent funds will roll into next fiscal year (FY22)
 - Additional extension of funds into **FY23** 7/1/22 - 6/30/23 (Yr 3) and **FY24** 7/1/23-9/30/23 (Yr 4)
 - OR -

- Apply for FY22 grant – due 7/30/21

- Funding Opportunity will be available in EdGrants on 4/19/21 for grant submission
 - Use if intend to not obligate ESSER II funds in this school year
 - Period of availability is 7/1/21 (or date of approval if later) – 6/30/22
 - Additional extension of funds into **FY23** 7/1/22 - 6/30/23 (Yr 2) and **FY24** 7/1/23 - 9/30/23 (Yr 3)



Relief Funding – Sequencing (First to Expire, First Out!)



Poll question - ESSER I funds expended to date

- What percentage of your ESSER I funds have you expended to date?
 - 20%
 - 50%
 - 80%
 - 100%
 - Not sure



02

Uses: Allowable & Required

ESSER II: Allowable Uses – same as ESSER I...plus

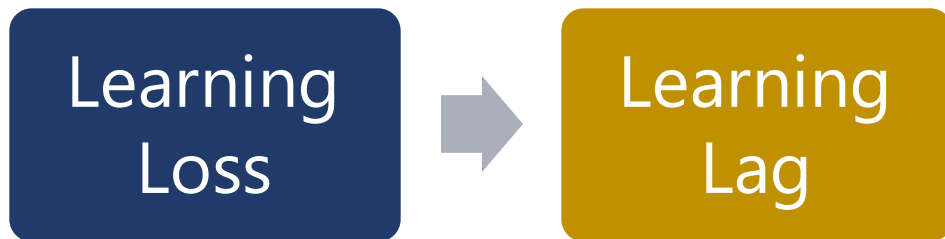
- Same as ESSER I - any allowable activity under:
 - ESSA (including Titles IA, IIA, III, IVA, and V) – in all schools, regardless of Title I status
 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 - Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act
 - McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
 - Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)
 - **Plus...**
 - Improvements to school ventilation systems
 - Addressing unfinished teaching and learning
- To meet purpose: prevent, prepare for, and respond to impacts of COVID-19

ESSER II: Think about ESSER II in three main areas.



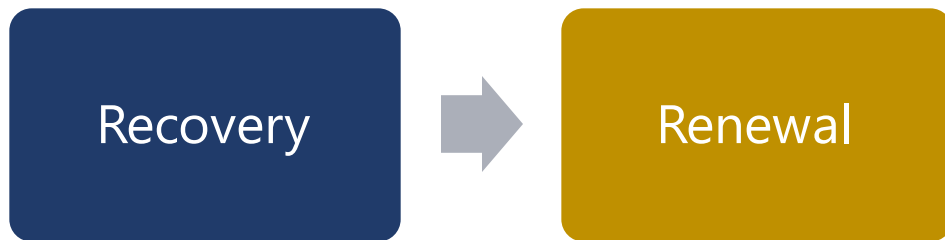
Three Buckets

ESSER II: Academics, focus on evidence-based approaches.



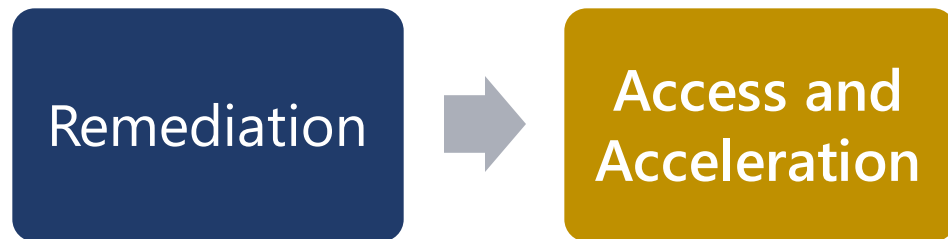
- **High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)**, using [CUrriculum RATings by TEachers \(CURATE\)](#) and High-Quality curriculum-aligned professional development for district staff, including culturally responsive practices
- **Early literacy programming**, including Early Literacy tutoring (before and after school): high-dose tutoring with clear guardrails, including valid and reliable early literacy assessments
- **K-12 math skill-building**, including high-dose tutoring for elementary, middle, and early high school students
- **Planning and implementing summer learning** and supplemental afterschool programs
- **Diagnostic assessments** to gauge needs and gaps

ESSER II: Social Emotional, for mental health and engagement.



- Activities to address the **unique needs of low-income children, students with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth**, including outreach and service delivery
- Maximize capacity for coordination to connect students to **behavioral and mental health** supports and services
- **Additional \$10,000** provided per district allocation for **mental health services and supports**
 - Provide narrative in grant application
 - Spending on student mental health services/supports must be evident in budget

ESSER II: Operations, access for students with an equity focus.



- **Educational technology** (connectivity, hardware, devices, software, technology support services, etc.)
- **Supplies and services** that enable remote learning (printing, telephonic support, translation services, etc.)
- **School ventilation system improvements;** PPE, other supplies/services to implement public health protocols
- **Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures**, including how to provide meals, technology for online learning, guidance for carrying out IDEA requirements, and providing educational services.
- **Other activities** necessary to maintain district operations and services and to continue to employ existing district staff, including training on minimizing the spread of infectious disease

Poll question: What will you use the majority of ESSER II funds on?

- Poll question:
 - The Academic “bucket”: gauging and addressing unfinished teaching and learning, etc.
 - The Social Emotional “bucket”: mental health supports, etc.
 - The Operational “bucket”: COVID prevention/response measures - ventilation, etc.



03

ESSER II Fund grant application: A walk-through

Poll question - ESSER II Application Submission

- Poll Question: When do you anticipate submitting your ESSER II application to DESE?
 - 3/31/21 deadline, or
 - 7/30/21 deadline



04

ESSER II reporting & resources

Reporting Requirements under CRRSA Act

- Accounting of use of ESSER II funds on:
 - projects supported with CRRSA Act funds
 - Will include how funds are being used to measure and address learning loss among students disproportionately affected by coronavirus and school closures
 - amounts spent on each project
 - information about subgrants and contracts
 - More information on reporting will be forthcoming as requirements develop



Resources

- ESSER II grant RFP and application materials (fund code 115):
 - DESE current grants at: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2021/115/>
- Federal grant programs ESSER resource page:
 - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/esser/>
 - ESSER II Allocations: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/esser/esser2-allocations.xlsx>
 - ESSER II Quick Reference Guide: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants/esser/esser2-qrg.docx>
- Your federal grants liaison:
 - Contact your [federal grants liaison](#) with any questions about the grant application, purposes, and requirements.
 - For questions related to the grant funding request and payment process, contact grants management at Edgrants@mass.gov or 781-338-6595.



- Our office and your liaison:

Federal Grant Programs

[Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\)](#)

[Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act \(CARES Act\)](#)

[General Resources for Federal Grant Programs](#)

[Title I Part A](#)

[Title I Part D \(Neglected & Delinquent\)](#)

[Title II Part A](#)

[Title III Part A](#)

Federal Grant Programs

Federal Grant Programs News Headlines

There are no Federal Grant Programs Headlines at this time

Federal Grant Programs News Archives

The Federal Grant Programs team in the Resource Allocation Strategy and Planning Office provides allocations, resources, technical assistance, and program monitoring (in collaboration with other DESE offices) for the major federal entitlement grants to ensure high-quality educational opportunities for all of the Commonwealth's students. The Federal Grant Programs team has primary responsibility for entitlement grants authorized by the following federal laws: Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (2015) (Titles IA & D, IIA, IIIA, IVA, and VB); Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (2004); and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act.

Contact Us

[Federal Grant Programs](#)

781-338-6230

[DESE Federal Grant Liaisons by District](#)

Links

Visit DESE [Grants page](#) to apply for these federal grants and for indirect cost rates and grant assurances

[EdGrants](#)

[EdGrants User Guides](#)

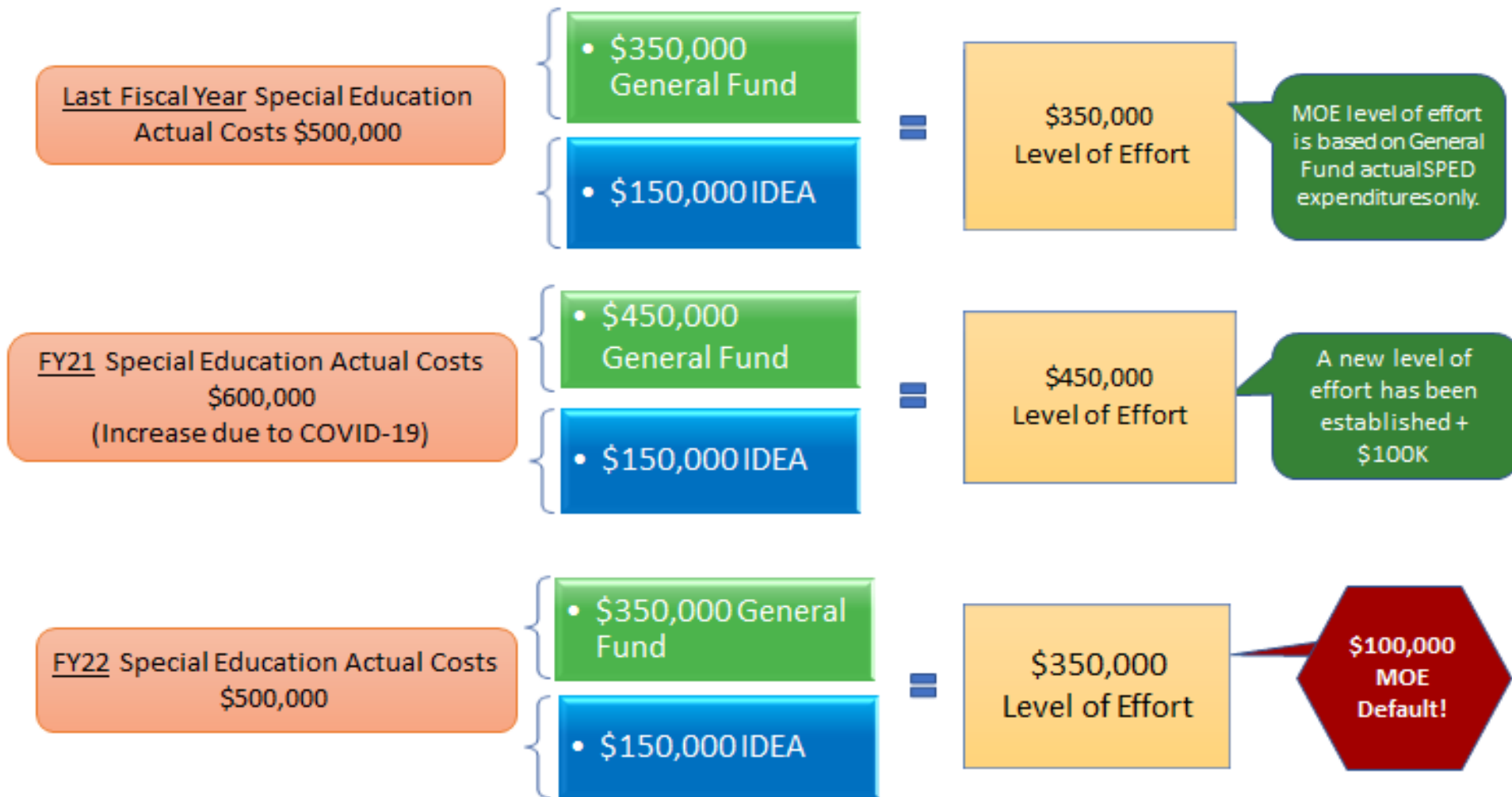
05

Odds and Ends: New Waiver, MOE

CARES Act Waivers

- Title IVA (applicable to allocations of \$30,000 or more), waive:
 - needs assessment for changes in spending of FY21 funds
 - requirement to spend across three areas (well-rounded education, safe & healthy students, use of technology)
- Title IVA limit on technology spending waived (applicable to all recipients)
- **No** additional fiscal waivers offered to extend ESSA grant end dates as provided by the CARES Act

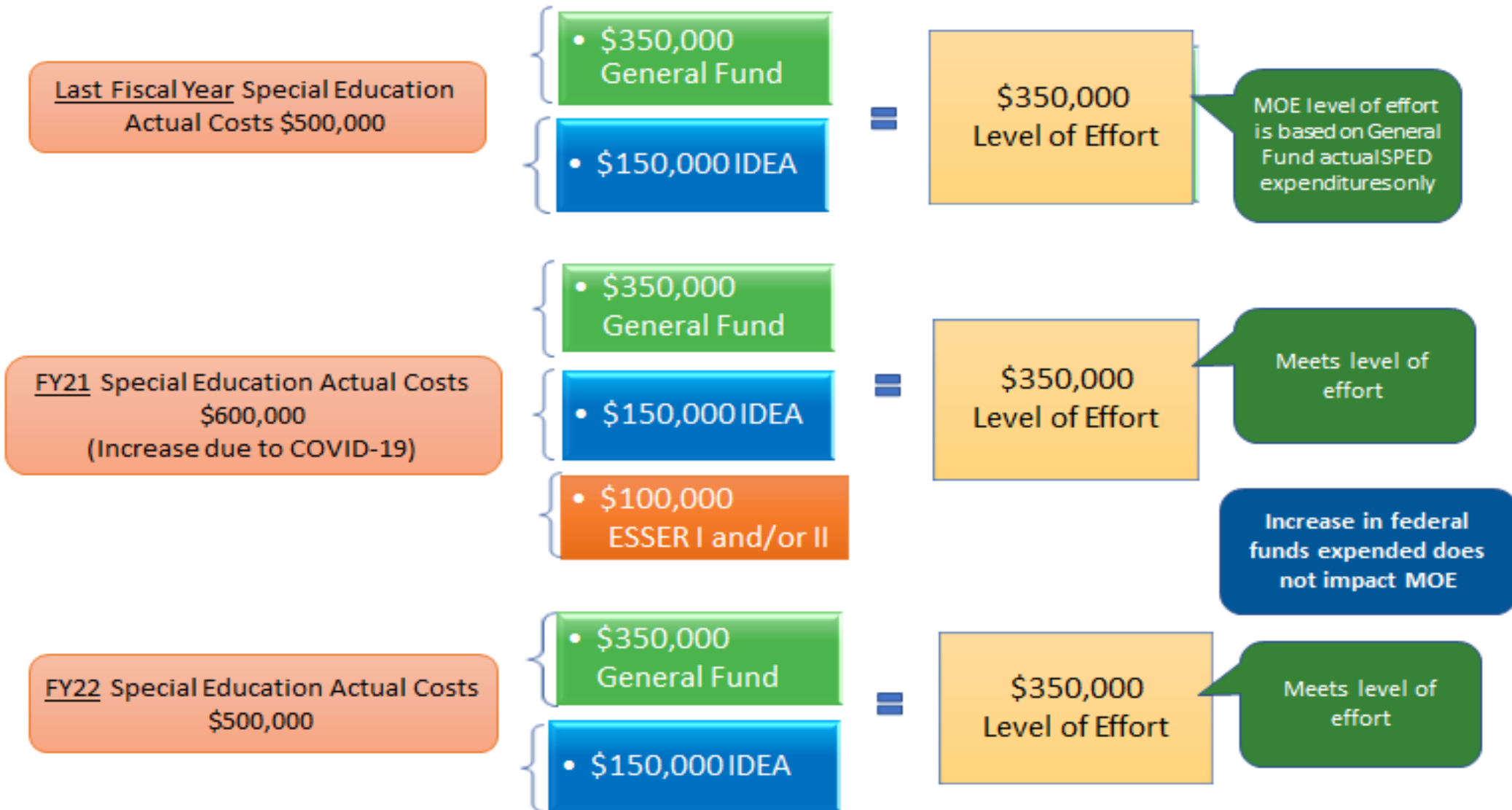
IDEA Maintenance of Effort – Beware of Increases to Level of Effort



IDEA Maintenance of Effort – Beware of Using Too Many Federal Dollars



IDEA Maintenance of Effort – Using the Right Blend of General and Federal Funds



Reductions in Special Education Staff May Not Reduce Your Level of Effort

Note that **layoffs** and reductions of special education staff due to downsizing **do not count toward exceptions** for maintenance of effort.

To count toward an exception, staff reductions must be voluntary (e.g., retirement) or for cause.

For additional COVID-related fiscal issues re: IDEA, see <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/special/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-fiscal-flexibilities-idea-part-b-06-26-2020.pdf>

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

THANK YOU

 781.338.6230

 [www.doe.mass.edu/
federalgrants](http://www.doe.mass.edu/federalgrants)

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