





# Making the Most of the CARES Act

Understanding the ways funding allocations can benefit your school




The **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** is essential in planning your budget for the next school year.

Central to the CARES Act is the **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)** funding. This funding is intended for districts to supplement budgets as districts have to reimagine the way schools may be structured due to COVID-19. This funding can be allocated directly to support students with disabilities. Many STAR programs and services fit the requirements of ESSER and can qualify under ESSER funding within your budget.

ESSER-approved expenditures	STAR services to support your students and team
 <p><b>Any activity authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)</b></p>	<p>IDEA requires that schools use evidence-based programs and curricula. Both the <a href="#">STAR Program</a> and the <a href="#">Links Curriculum</a> are grounded in evidence-based practices and transfer research into practice by providing teachers with the tools to implement a comprehensive program using the teaching strategies identified as most effective for students with significant learning challenges.</p>
 <p><b>Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools</b></p>	<p>We provide both virtual and in-person training for district administrators, principals, and school leaders on how to best support students with autism and other developmental disabilities. Our proven approach of <a href="#">building capacity</a> to serve all students with autism improves student outcomes, increases efficiency, and improves staff satisfaction.</p>
 <p><b>Planning for and coordinating during long term closures and providing technology for online learning to all students under IDEA</b></p>	<p>We provide evidence-based practice workshops and trainings (both <a href="#">in-person</a> and <a href="#">virtually</a>) to help staff address students' learning, assess their skills, and keep them on track with their IEP goals.</p> <p>Our <a href="#">STAR Online Learning System (SOLS)</a> allows your school district to provide synchronous remote learning opportunities to preschool, elementary, and secondary students. This instruction offers real-time teaching from a trained instructor while maintaining an IEP-driven curriculum with scaffolded learning opportunities.</p>
 <p><b>Purchasing educational technology for students with disabilities that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors</b></p>	<p>Synchronous remote instruction offers real-time teaching from a trained educator, allowing students to work on the advancement of skills as opposed to focusing only on maintaining previously learned skills. <a href="#">SOLS</a> uses the best remote learning strategies and provides synchronous remote instruction by a qualified teacher to deliver an IEP-driven curriculum.</p>

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 <p><b>Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of students with disabilities</b></p>	<p>Mandated by IDEA, extended school year (ESY) services are special education or related services that students need in order to maintain the skills they have learned.</p> <p>We work with districts with unique scheduling opportunities during breaks to provide professional development training. One of our most popular options is for teachers to work with students and STAR coaches during ESY morning classroom time and receive professional development training in the afternoon.</p> <p>In addition, <a href="#">SOLS</a> Extended School Year is a synchronous learning system tailored for implementation during the summer.</p>
 <p><b>Training and professional development for staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases</b></p>	<p>We offer resources and supports for schools and classrooms to follow health recommendations and minimize the spread of germs.</p> <p>In addition to the personal hygiene and self-care student supports offered through <a href="#">STAR Routine Essentials</a> and <a href="#">Links Curriculum</a> routine visuals, we offer video modeling and scripts to assist educators in maintaining a safe, sanitary environment for their students.</p>
 <p><b>Services that address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools</b></p>	<p>The STAR “Staying Safe During COVID-10” unit includes visuals, activities, and videos to support students in learning how to social distance at school, in the classroom, and at home. Districts are able to access this unit through our <a href="#">Media Center</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">SOLS</a> is also a great tool to support students, caregivers, and educators during COVID-19, offering real-time coaching and instructor-led lessons to provide a continuous curriculum even when students cannot access in-person learning.</p>

- ★ District approaches to accessing funds may vary. Check with your district on specifics related to CARES Act funds
- ★ Contact us to learn more about how our programs align with the goals of the CARES Act: [information@starautismsupport.com](mailto:information@starautismsupport.com) or **503-716-8203**

Find more information about the CARES Act and ESSER funding below:

- ★ [ESSER Information](#)
- ★ [ESSER Approved Expenditures](#)
- ★ [U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 Resources](#)