



## Five Critical Factors to Reset Learning This Year and Beyond

### Use ESSER funding to accelerate learning recovery and be better prepared for the future.

Recovering from the pandemic's impact on K–12 education and creating a better path forward is the agenda for the 2021–2022 school year and beyond.

ESSER I, II, and III funding will deliver more than \$100 billion over the next several years to help school districts respond to the urgent need for learning recovery and preparedness for future emergencies or school closures. Yet, this “reset” of learning is uncharted territory with no easy fix.

The imperative is to take lessons from what worked well for students before *and* during the pandemic. Adapting these effective models and approaches to reshape learning in environments can lead to more rapid recovery and better preparedness.

Lean on Stride Learning Solutions' 20 years of experience to help your district implement proven solutions to close learning gaps for K–12 students, get high school students quickly back on track to graduation, and address the changing needs of your learning community with flexible online and blended learning.

### What We Know Works

A recent research study conducted by the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA)<sup>1</sup>, found “students enrolled at Stride K12-powered online schools, and who participated in one of NWEA's growth assessments, did not experience the same level of learning loss as their peers during the pandemic. In fact, they were more likely to maintain or grow academically than to slide.” The study also found that “driven by the dedicated wraparound support services available to all students enrolled at Stride K12-powered schools, student engagement remained strong during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

School districts can tap into the proven model of Stride K12-powered online schools when looking to implement an effective online learning solution.

Here are five critical factors to keep in mind as you plan to maximize your ESSER funding and reset learning this year and beyond.

#### **1** CREATE STUDENT-CENTERED ONLINE OR BLENDED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS TO SUPPORT CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT

Stride K12-powered online schools did not experience the same urgency of having to quickly shift learning online during the pandemic. With strategic online learning systems and supports already in place, the schools were prepared to provide students with continuous access to equitable, engaging, and student-centered learning experiences.

---

Reset Learning with Stride Learning Solutions. Request a demo.

**844.638.3533** | [stridelearning.com/learning-solutions](https://stridelearning.com/learning-solutions)



These successful models demonstrate the critical importance of:

- Dedicated systems to monitor student engagement online
- Clear expectations for behavior that are specific to the virtual setting
- Ongoing assessment and systematic interventions delivered online to respond immediately when students fall behind
- Onboarding and training that teaches students to navigate the learning platform and teachers to maximize instruction in an online or blended environment<sup>2</sup>

## 2 SUPPORT TEACHERS WITH TRAINING AND TOOLS TO MAXIMIZE THE POTENTIAL OF TECHNOLOGY

According to the Christensen Institute's January 2021 report, *Breaking The Mold: How a global pandemic unlocks innovation in K-12 instruction*, "Currently, 83% of teachers teach in hybrid or remote modalities that, in most cases, require extensive use of online learning. Yet only 16% of teachers report using online learning 'a lot' pre-pandemic."<sup>2</sup> Stride K12-powered online schools emphasize professional learning for teachers focused on delivering effective, engaging online instruction.

For many districts, learning during the pandemic consisted of virtual instruction via Zoom or Google Meet that tried to recreate in-person instruction virtually and failed. Teachers need ample training to utilize technology and resources that are designed to support student-centered practice delivered virtually—including:

- Digital materials designed specifically for active learning in an online or blended setting
- Learning platforms that adapt to provide personalized learning paths
- Platforms that facilitate frequent and dynamic interactions between teachers and students
- Learning management systems that support students and teachers as they work to close learning gaps<sup>2</sup>

## 3 IMPLEMENT FLEXIBLE AND INNOVATIVE LEARNING PLATFORMS BUILT SPECIFICALLY FOR EDUCATION

Stride K12-powered online schools that saw limited learning loss during the pandemic used the strength of learning platforms built specifically for education to deliver student-centered learning online. Zoom and other platforms filled a necessary gap for K-12 learning during the pandemic, but they were designed for the business work of meetings and not for collaborative, active classroom learning.

Platforms like Stride support online sharing, collaboration, interaction, and communication through features like video conference tools, breakout rooms, online screen sharing, digital whiteboards, and live quizzes that make it more likely for students to stay connected and active in their learning. These learning management systems also support teachers with tools for efficient classroom management within the virtual or blended setting.

Districts should be encouraged to introduce innovative programs designed for education that leverage the strength of technology. Video call mentoring, virtual tutoring to support remote learning, learning pods organized by families, and learning hubs for central access to curated learning resources and activities are all innovative ways to connect and support students online.<sup>2</sup>

Reset Learning with Stride Learning Solutions. Request a demo.

844.638.3533 | [stridelearning.com/learning-solutions](https://stridelearning.com/learning-solutions)

## 4 USE PERSONALIZED, ADAPTIVE CREDIT RECOVERY TO SUPPORT THOSE WITH THE GREATEST NEED

Widespread absenteeism and a lack of student engagement during the pandemic have exacerbated learning loss and credit deficiencies for high school students, creating an even greater need for credit recovery programs.

At Stride, we know it is critical to engage students in credit recovery programs delivered in a motivating, flexible, and personalized environment. Successful credit recovery programs like those in our online and blended schools share these characteristics:

- Self-paced learning using diagnostic testing for placement into an adaptive learning setting
- The ability for students to test out of previously mastered material and progress at their own pace
- Flexibility to adapt to a wide range of settings, circumstances, and modes of instruction
- Centered on socioemotional learning with embedded tools to support the whole student
- Proactive and consistent planning of individual pathways that include the path after high school<sup>2</sup>

## 5 IMPLEMENT SYSTEMIC SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING TO SUPPORT THE WHOLE CHILD

The mental health crisis experienced during the pandemic put a spotlight on the continued need for systemwide, consistent, and cohesive social emotional learning (SEL) programs. As we work to recover, doubling down on filling the academic gaps alone will not work. Districts must implement dedicated SEL programs that are designed to help students grow holistically as they grow academically.

Systemic SEL programs created through school-family-community partnerships help promote equity and create thriving learning environments where students are encouraged to develop a growth mindset of resilience, perseverance, and self-management. Districts need to use research-based SEL models proven to sustain positive school cultures. They should also consider curriculum like Stride's rapid credit recovery and skills recovery that embeds SEL into the courses.<sup>2</sup>



As you consider these five critical factors to reset learning in the new school year, talk to a Stride Learning Solutions representative about maximizing your ESSER funds with our proven solutions.

**Contact us today: 844.638.3533**  
[stridelearning.com/learning-solutions](https://stridelearning.com/learning-solutions)

### Sources:

<sup>1</sup>[Stride NWEA Study on Learning Loss](#)

<sup>2</sup>[Stride, 2021: Finding What Works to Speed Learning Recovery](#)