DATE: January 14, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Rosa S. Atkins, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Education Issues Two New Documents on the Uses of Pandemic Relief Funds

Last month, the U.S. Department of Education issued two new documents on the uses of federal pandemic relief funds:

- A December 16, 2021 Dear Colleague Letter provides information on how American Rescue Plan Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds can be used to address teacher and staff shortages.
- A December 29, 2021 COVID Connection Fact Sheet provides clarification about and examples for what it means for ESSER and Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds to “prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

For more information

Questions about the uses of ESSER or GEER funds should be directed to VDOEfederalrelief@doe.virginia.gov.

RSA/LS