



October  
2021



# ESSER III

To Educate, Empower &  
Inspire the Whole-Child™

**Program**

**LEA American Rescue Plan (ARP-ESSER III)**

**Purpose:**

Under the Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief III ARP (American Rescue Plan) Fund (ESSER III), the Department awards grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. LEAs must provide services to students and teachers in public schools as required under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

**Grant Due Date**

No later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Reimbursement Period:**

March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2024 as long as requirements are met.

**Begin Date:**

July 1, 2021 or the receipt date of a substantially approvable application, whichever is later.

# Requirements

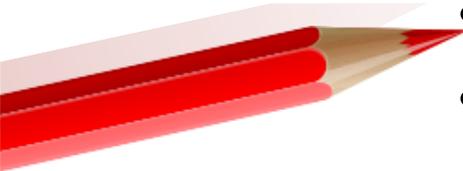
LEA must reserve not less than 20% of its total ESSER ARP allocation to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based intervention and ensure that **such interventions respond to students' academic, social and emotional needs** and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.

**Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan:** Section 2001(i) of the ARP Act requires an LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds to develop and make **publicly available on the LEA's website, within 30 days after receiving its allocation, a plan for the safe return to in person instruction and continuity of services.** Prior to making the plan publicly available. The LEA must seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into consideration when developing the plan. **The LEA must also create an ESSER use of Funds Plans within 90 days of receiving the ESSER Funds.** The plan should also be made publicly available on the LEA's website and submitted to ISBE.

**All FFATA (Federal Funding and Transparency Act) and GATA (Grant Accounting & Transparency Act) Assurances must be met** ensure that funds will be used for activities authorized under the Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief III Funds of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

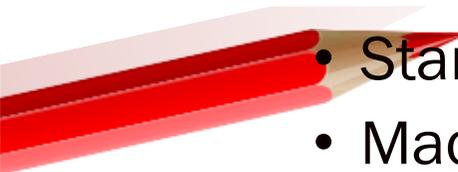


# ESSER Process

- Survey announced in the Summer 2021 Community Connection Newsletter
  - Community survey announcement postcard mailed out to residents and placed at various locations throughout the school district (June 25<sup>th</sup>)
  - Community-wide survey was conducted from June 28<sup>th</sup> through July 18<sup>th</sup> (Extended the original date by a week)
  - Analyzed survey results (311 respondents)
  - Developed priorities based on survey results
  - Begin updating the Safe-Return-to-School Plan
  - Participated in a various training and webinars
  - Grant released in July, 2021
- 

# ESSER Process



- Superintendent met with key administrators to determine departmental needs
  - Superintendent discussed ESSER III with BOE
  - Ensured FFATA and GATA compliances were met
  - Considered 2019-2023 Strategic Plan
  - Begin working on the Use of Funds Plan
  - Begin working on the grant application
  - Submitted grant application
  - Started on-going communication with ISBE Principal Consultant
  - Made revisions as advised
  - Received substantial approval (meaning that the major components of the grant proposal were approved)
  - Received final approval
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# Community-wide Survey Results



Respondent ranked the questions by selecting Low Priority, Moderate Priority or High Priority:

- Addressing Academic Concerns
- Addressing students' social and emotional learning needs
- Professional Development
- Increasing Technology Connectivity
- Facility Updates/Capital Improvement

311 unique respondents in total:

- 236 Parents/Guardians
- 40 Teachers
- 3 District Administrators
- 18 Other District Personnel
- 48 Community Residents

**\*Some respondents identified themselves in more than one category, hence the total adds to be 345.**

# Community-wide Survey Results

## 1 Addressing Academic Concerns:

To provide additional school days, extended school hours, summer enrichment, and tutoring to accelerate learning.

	1
High Priority	53.3%
Moderate Priority	32.2%
Low Priority	14.5%

## 2 Addressing Academic Concerns:

To provide instructional materials, resources, and interventions activities to meet the academic needs of students.

	2
High Priority	86.8%
Moderate Priority	12.9%
Low Priority	0.3%

## 3 Addressing Academic Concerns:

To secure diagnostic assessments and tools to help students, parents, and families to identify specific academic areas of need.

	3
High Priority	65.0%
Moderate Priority	25.7%
Low Priority	9.3%

# Community-wide Survey Results

## 4 Addressing students' social and emotional learning needs:

To provide social, emotional, and mental health interventions and support.

## 5 Professional Development: To provide professional development for staff on accelerated learning, to address unfinished learning standards from the disruption caused by COVID-19.

## 6 Increasing campus technology connectivity to support student learning:

Currently we offer one-to-one technology for our students. To provide additional technology support to our students and staff.

	4
High Priority	73.6%
Moderate Priority	23.8%
Low Priority	2.6%

	5
High Priority	72.0%
Moderate Priority	22.5%
Low Priority	5.5%

	6
High Priority	63.3%
Moderate Priority	26.4%
Low Priority	10.3%

# Community-wide Survey Results

**7 Facility Updates and Capital Improvement:**  
To provide HVAC/filters to improve indoor air quality, and upgrades throughout our schools to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

7

High Priority	84.6%
Moderate Priority	12.5%
Low Priority	2.9%

## Additional Comments:

- Reduce the students impact of catching COVID-19.
- Better pay and incentives/hazard pay to improve teacher retention and to attract highly qualified teachers.
- Make sure all classrooms have air purifiers.
- Landscaping and new playground equipment, building facelifts for K-5 buildings.
- Provide better food for students.
- Provide proper PPE and guidance for accomodating all students in the classrooms safely .
- Parent outreach to clarify grade-level academic expectations and provide parents with tools to support and extend learning at home.
- Increase the number of school counselors or add SEL teachers to specifically address social-emotional learning gaps.

# ESSER III Allocation Calculation

Under ARP ESSER, the **SEA must allocate at least 90% of the ESSER funds it receives as sub-grants to LEAs** in proportion to the amount of funds each LEA received under part, A of title I of the ESEA in the most recent fiscal year.

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires an LEA to reserve not less than **20% of its ARP ESSER allocation to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.**

Section 2001(f) requires **ISBE to set aside ARP ESSER funds for State-level reservations to address evidence-based activities and interventions to respond to students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs** and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students. **The intent and purpose must address the three required use of funds; Learning Loss, Summer School and After School. These are considered set-asides.**

# ESSER III Allocation Calculation

Required Expenditure	Allocation Calculation
ARP – ESSER Allocation (at least 20% of which must be used to address learning loss)	4,785,302
State-level reservation – Learning Loss	38,094
State-level reservation – Summer Enrichment	7,619
State-level reservation – After School	7,619
Total Funds Available	4,838,634

We were required to allocate a minimum of \$957,060 towards learning loss. We allocated \$1,351,750

## ESSER III Grant Approved Budget

Expenditure Description & Itemization	Amount
Hiring of an attendance coordinator to increase attendance and <b>reduce learning lost</b> @ \$39,000,00 for two years.	78,000
Estimated employee benefits for the <b>attendance coordinator</b> for two years @ 16,500 each year.	33,000
Hiring of a technology intern to assist teachers and students with technology needs and <b>reduce learning loss</b> . This position does not have benefits.	30,000
Hiring of 2 nurses @ \$59,000.00 for 1 year to support the safety and health of students and staff.	118,000
Estimated employee benefits for the nurses for one year @ 16,500 each.	33,000
The purchase of social emotional learning resources <b>to address learning loss</b> .	25,000
The purchase of a new math curriculum for the 2022-2023 school-year to <b>assist with learning loss</b> .	350,000
Electronic devices: 436 Chromebooks at approximately \$300.00.	130,800
Hazard pay for approximately 350 employees at an estimate of \$1,000.00 each.	264,000

## ESSER III Grant Approved Budget

Expenditure Description & Itemization	Amount
<p>Payment of contract services with the 7<sup>th</sup> University to provide STEM education, after-school enrichment, social emotional programs, and career exploration for Colin Powell students. The total amount of the program is \$60,000. <b>The program will assist in the reduction of learning loss.</b></p>	60,000
<p>Payment of 4 technology teachers for our elementary schools coding classes. The classes will be 3 hours weekly for 9 weeks. Totaling 27 hours of instruction. Teachers will be paid \$35.00 hourly, totaling \$945.00 each and \$3,780 in total. To maximize participation and social distancing, we will hold two 9 week sessions during the 2022 and 2023 school-year, totaling \$7,560. This is an enrichment program.</p>	7,560
<p>Estimated contract services to implement mentoring and tutoring programs at the elementary schools to <b>assist in the reduction of learning loss.</b></p>	86,000
<p>Schools implementation of the Principals Choice/School Improvement Plan at <b>\$150.00 per student at an estimate of 1850 students to reduce learning loss</b>, professional development and additional resources.</p>	277,500
<p>Contract services for Proximity Learning to provide instruction to students learning remotely and <b>reduce learning loss.</b></p>	75,000

## ESSER III Grant Approved Budget

Expenditure Description & Itemization	Amount
Elementary schools playground equipment to allow for the required social distancing, support social emotional learning, and create an explorative and creating learning environment. According to ISBE children are required 30 minutes of daily play time. <b>State procurement process will be followed.</b>	365,000
Facility flooring upgrade to remove old carpeting in classrooms throughout the school district to improve safety. During COVID-19, schools were inspected for safety, air quality, heating, and ventilation. The old carpeting is a barrier to air quality because it holds dust, can weaken the immune system and promote respiratory issues. Flooring is easier to maintain and will increase the safety and welfare of students and staff. <b>State procurement process will be followed.</b>	342,524
HVAC installation throughout the school district to improve ventilation will be performed by Midwest Mechanical. <b>State procurement processed was followed.</b>	326,000
Estimated allocation towards the new STEM Center resources to support student-centered and community education programs including the early learning center, makers lab, and aerospace science lab. <b>Learning loss allocation.</b>	337,250
Sieden Prairie extension project to provide additional classrooms and support social distancing efforts. <b>State procurement process will be followed.</b>	1,900,000
<b>Total Grant Allocation</b>	<b>4,838,643</b>



Questions?

Comments?

Shelia M. Friday  
October 13, 2021