

ESSER



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Department of Education has released three grants for which local education agencies can apply. These grants, known as ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III, were authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act); the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA); and the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

ARP: ESSER III

- **The Grant**

In March 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law. The ARP dedicated \$122 billion to the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) Fund. This grant is known as ESSER III. The intent and purpose of ESSER III is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus on students.

- **Allotment/Use of Funds**

Warsaw CUSD 316 applied to receive its allocation of ESSER III funds based on feedback from stakeholder groups. Warsaw's total ESSER III allocation is \$614,563. These funds are supplemental to the District's budget and will be used to address the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools. Warsaw's use of ESSER III funds include addressing loss of learning for students and strategies that support students' social, emotional, and mental health through continuity, consistency, and access to support. \$165,000 has been allocated to staffing and benefit costs related to summer programming, after school care, additional intervention/special education supports, and dedicated substitutes to address staff shortages during outbreaks. \$135,000 has been allocated for the purchase of updated materials to support these teaching and learning initiatives. The Center for Disease Control asserts that healthy buildings play an important role in mitigating the spread of infectious disease. \$314,563 has been allocated to improve the overall "health" of facilities, particularly at Warsaw CUSD 316. Targeted improvements will help custodial staff clean buildings and maintain safe surfaces by removing irreparable floor surfaces, installation of new floor surfaces, technology upgrades, and other facility upgrades. This work requires the removal of pre-existing asbestos.

- **Feedback Opportunities**

- Board of Education Meeting Presentation
- Public comment time during any open meeting of the Board of Education
- Final Approval at August Board of Education Meeting
- Posting 2021 - 2022 In-Person Return to School Plans on District Website with Opportunity for Stakeholder Feedback

- Use of ARP-ESSER III Funds Plan Contents

Use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (totaling not less than 20 percent of the LEA's total allocation of ARP ESSER funds) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions:

Our plan recognizes that no less than 20% of all ESSER III funds must be used to address learning loss. The cost interventions listed below comprise more than 20% of the funds granted. We believe these supports are sustainable beyond the issuance of these funds and will continue to support students for years to come.

Two retired teachers were hired for intervention programs for at-risk students at Warsaw Elementary School due to learning loss from COVID-19. Funds will be used for their salary and benefits.

Spend the remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act:

- ✓ Focusing on student groups most impacted by the pandemic to provide social/emotional support
- ✓ Interventions and strategies for consideration to support students academic needs
- ✓ Support educators and other school staff
- ✓ Purchase in-class technology to enhance instruction
- ✓ Purchase COVID mitigation supplies due to COVID-19

COVID-19 mitigation supplies & equipment were purchased to be used across the District as part of the COVID-19 mitigation cleaning and social distancing procedure. Provide the public with the opportunity to provide input in the development of the district plan for the use of ARP ESSER funds and take such input into account.

Implement an equitable and inclusive return to in-person instruction. An inclusive return to in-person instruction includes, but is not limited to, establishing policies and practices that avoid the over-use of exclusionary discipline measures (including in- and out- of school suspensions) and creating a positive and supportive learning environment for all students.

Describe its overall plans and policies related to district support for return to in-person instruction and maximizing in-person instruction time, including how funds will support a return to and maximize in-person instruction time, and advance equity and inclusivity in participation in in-person instruction.