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Suffolk Public Schools American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) CARES Act III

Introduction

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' **academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs**. Suffolk Public Schools has been awarded \$27,355,556.75 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Mrs. Wendy Forsman, Chief Financial Officer at 757-925-6750.

Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

ARP Act ESSER III funds may be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. Suffolk Public Schools will use approximately \$516,000 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below.

Funds will be used to upgrade custodial supplies to better disinfect schools. PPE and disinfectant supplies will be purchased to continue to keep students and staff safe from COVID-19. Furthermore, funds will be used for costs associated with testing, supplies, staffing, vaccine costs for recommended associated vaccines as a result of COVID-19.

Addressing Unfinished Learning

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA to use twenty percent of its formula funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs. Suffolk Public Schools will use approximately \$11,136,369 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

Suffolk Public Schools will be addressing unfinished learning through the implementation of the following: SPS Saturday Academy; before and after school tutoring for elementary and secondary students; virtual tutoring services across the division; replacement devices for Pre-K 12 students; manipulatives, supports and services for students with special needs; instructional software supports for English Learners; and virtual learning programs for secondary students.

Other Uses of Funds

Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act permits school divisions to use the ARP Act ESSER III funding not reserved to address unfinished learning to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways. Suffolk Public Schools will use approximately \$16,219,187.75 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

Funds will be used in the following ways: curriculum writing compensation; various trainings to support division staff in the following areas; social-emotional learning, restorative practices, equity training, culturally responsive instruction; contracted services for COVID testing, vaccine clinics, instructional programs for student athletes and CTE students; replacement of roofs at five schools (shingle to seam metal) and replacement of HVAC chiller at one school.

Addressing Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Suffolk Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure that the interventions implemented will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students through continuous monitoring, feedback, and review by various stakeholders. The [Back and Better: 2021-2022 Parents' Guide to Learning](#) articulates how all students are being supported in all areas.

Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Suffolk Public Schools conducted consultation in the following ways:

- Through multiple consultations and meetings with the division's Teaching and Learning department and Student Services department who consistently was being informed and provided input by various stakeholders at all levels, including and not limited to VDOE, VDH, Western Tidewater Health Department, local government entities, division and building level administrators, teachers, and other personnel.
- SPS afforded the public the opportunity to provide input during an advertised Public Hearing session on May 13, 2021 and taking such input into account.
- The public has the opportunity to speak on non-agenda topics at the monthly SPS School Board Meetings.

Making the Plan Available to the Public

Suffolk Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at https://www.spsk12.net/departments/finance/coronavirus_federal_money;
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Ms. Anthonette Ward, Community Engagement Officer, at 757-925-6750.