



Frederick County Public Schools

ESSER III Spending Plan Updated April 2022

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. Frederick County Public Schools has been awarded \$10,793,768.89 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Patty Camery, Executive Director of Finance at cameryp@fcpsk12.net.

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. Frederick County Public Schools will use approximately \$3,565,000 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

Frederick County Public Schools will allocate ESSER III funds to support the loss of instructional time through:

- **Summer Academy Camps and Pathways for Students in PK-12th Grades Identified as At-Risk as a Result of Learning Loss:** These programs will run through the summer of 2022, 2023, and 2024. Camps and pathways will focus on providing deeper learning experiences for students through the application of skills and strategies to projects designed to help students make connections to real-world problems and solutions. Transportation and meals will be provided.
 - \$1.5 million
- **School-Based Extended Learning Programs:** Each school site will be provided with funding to support before and after school learning opportunities for students identified as needing additional support as a result of learning loss. These programs will vary by school and will support students throughout the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years.
 - \$630,000
- **Professional Learning Opportunities to Support Paraprofessionals Providing Intervention:** Paraprofessionals providing direct intervention support to students will receive training related to the targeted interventions being used. Release time and contracted time will be provided to create the time needed for professional learning.
 - \$30,000
- **Additional staff to respond to increased child find obligations and provide proactive mental health support:** These requested positions will support including, but not limited to: group counseling, individual counseling (including related services as it relates to a child's IEP), conducting mental health evaluations as is required, interpreting mental health risk assessments completed by third-party vendors, consulting with private mental health providers, assisting with the safety planning process, participating in the threat assessment process (threats of harm to self and/or others), and serving as a liaison between the school division and community agencies.
 - Two limited FCPS social worker contracts will be awarded for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years. The total estimated costs for two staff members for three years would be approximately \$525,000.
 - FCPS school psychologist to attend all eligibility meetings, create diagnostic handbook, and work collaboratively with the director and assistant director on team restructuring and role as lead school psychologist. Approximately \$50,000.
 - Contracted services for (2) FTE school psychologists for 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24. The total estimated costs for two staff members for three years would be approximately \$660,000.

- Contracting services for (1) FTE language translator for 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24. The total estimated costs for one staff member for three years would be approximately \$170,000.

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. Frederick County Public Schools will use approximately \$7,228,768.89 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies to upgrade the HVAC system at Armel Elementary School and replace the Building Automation Systems at various school locations.

Frederick County Public Schools will address students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs by utilizing Virginia Tiered Systems of Support (VTSS) as a framework for meeting the academic and social-emotional needs of students. The programs being implemented to address the loss of instruction will be structured to support students academically, while also focusing on the social-emotional needs of students. By cultivating student interests and incorporating these into learning experiences students will be better connected to their peers, their work, and their schools. Addressing mental health needs will include providing interventions such as mentoring, mental health evaluations, mental health therapy, intensive in-home therapy, psychosexual assessments, and threat risk assessments for students. Our VTSS framework will assist the division in identifying and developing a plan to effectively meet the needs of any student who is struggling either academically or socially/emotionally.

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Frederick County Public Schools consulted with stakeholders, including students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, and school-related advisory boards. Input from these organizations, including Bright Futures Frederick/Winchester, Title I Advisory Committee, PK Advisory Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, Department of Social Services, and Court Services, which represent the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students, was taken into account in the final development of the plan.

Frederick County Public Schools made the plan available to the public by placing it on the division's home page in English and Spanish and meets ADA for accessibility. The plan may be orally translated for parents. Please contact Patty Camery at cameryp@fcpsk12.net to request a translation.