

Riverhead Central School District ARP-ESSER Funding Plan

Introduction

The 2021-22 enacted state budget includes language requiring local education agencies, such as school districts, that receive funding from the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP-ESSER) to post on its website a plan by school year of how these funds will be spent.

New York has been allocated nearly \$9 billion in ARP-ESSER funds, with a minimum of \$8.09 billion (90 percent) going to local education agencies, including public schools. Riverhead CSD has been allocated \$12,761,599.

Of this total, the following amounts are earmarked specifically for these purposes:

- supporting summer programming: \$875,269
- after-school programming: \$875,269
- additional supports to address learning loss: \$4,376,222

Districts are also required to prioritize spending on *non-recurring* expenses in the following areas:

- Safely returning students to in-person instruction;
- Maximizing in-person instruction time;
- Operating schools and meeting the needs of students;
- Purchasing educational technology;
- Addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, including the impacts of interrupted instruction and learning loss and the impacts on low-income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness;
- Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs;
- Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; and
- Supporting early childhood education.

In addition, districts must identify programs and services that will continue beyond the availability of these federal funds and how local funds will be used moving forward in order to minimize disruption to core academic and other school programs.

Before posting this plan, districts are required to seek public comment from parents, teachers and other stakeholders and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Thank you to the community members who provided input on the recent survey. If you have any questions regarding this plan please email our Superintendent, Dr. Augustine E. Tornatore at augustine.tornatore@riverhead.net.

Safely returning students to in-person instruction

Plan Summary: Any needed PPE and hand sanitizer will be purchased. Equipment to enhance the cleaning and sanitization of schools will be purchased. Touchless faucets and flushometers will be installed in bathrooms. Air conditioner unit replacements will be purchased. Water bottle filling stations will be purchased. Security camera systems upgrades will be placed in each school, upgraded door buzzer entry systems will be installed, vape detection systems will be installed in middle school and high school student bathrooms. Beyond the availability of federal funds, the District will reassess the need for any additional safety measures and purchase through the District's general fund budget.

Maximizing in-person instruction time

Plan Summary: Additional support staff will be hired to address academic and social-emotional needs of students. Small group instruction will be prioritized based on student need. Additional programs will be researched and purchased and any needed professional development will be provided to appropriate staff prior to utilizing any new programs. Beyond the availability of federal funds, the District will reassess the need for these additional staff members based on student needs at the time and pay for staff and programs through the District's general fund budget and/or other available grants.

Operating schools and meeting the needs of students

Plan Summary: Students in all seven schools will continue to have the opportunity to receive free breakfast and lunch regardless of a family's ability to pay through the Community Eligibility Provision. If schools are closed for an extended period of time, plans for distribution of food will be in place.

Purchase of educational technology

Plan Summary: All students will be provided with a 1:1 computer device for use at school and at home. Insurance and protective cases will be provided. Charging stations will be available in schools. Additional technology will be purchased to advance our art and music programs.

Computers will be purchased to enhance classroom learning in conjunction with classroom interactive panels. Beyond the availability of federal funds, the District will allocate funds for technology and/or explore multi-year technology purchase plans.

Addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all students, including low-income students, students with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness.

Plan Summary: School-based Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Teams will meet regularly to determine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all students within each school. Appropriate support will be provided. Beyond the availability of federal funds, the District will continue to utilize a MTSS framework to meet the needs of the students.

Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health and academic needs.

Plan Summary: Additional staff will be hired to support students' social, emotional, mental health and academic needs. Small group support will be in place in these areas. An alternative High School program will be established and run outside of the school day for students in need of this model. Beyond the availability of federal funds, the District will reassess the need for these additional staff members based on student needs at the time. The District will use the general fund budget and/or other grant monies to continue the alternative High School program.

Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs.

Plan Summary: Students will be provided opportunities to participate in summer programs and extracurricular programs during the school year for enrichment and/or remediation. Funding will be used to pay for teacher stipends, transportation, support staff, materials and supplies, and any related costs for contracting with vendors for summer programs. Beyond the availability of federal funds, the District may return to the number of summer and/or extracurricular activities previously supported by the District general fund budget and existing grant sources.

Supporting early childhood education.

Plan Summary: Additional teachers will be supporting all elementary classrooms, including K - 2 classrooms. Additional materials, supplies, and programs will be purchased as needed. Beyond the availability of federal funds, the District will reassess the need for these additional staff members based on student needs at the time.

Other areas of student performance and need.

Plan Summary: This plan will be reviewed regularly and updated as needed to meet the needs of the students at the time.