

ARP-ESSR 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. Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District has been allocated \$1,747,229.

Of this total, \$100,002 is earmarked specifically for supporting summer enrichment programming, \$100,002 for after-school programming, and \$209,446 is the 20% reserve for additional supports to address learning loss.

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.

Our Preparation for the Funding Plan

School Administration met with each schools' Building Council members and Principals. They discussed the highest areas of need for students and staff as well as feasibility of one-time costs focused on academic improvements.

Then on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, a public forum was held in order to seek input from parents, teachers and other stakeholders to include in finalizing this plan.

Safely returning students to in-person instruction

Plan Summary:

Our initial CARES Act funding is used for this (space reconfiguration for maximum occupancy, PPE & cleaning supplies) in accordance with the District's Reopening Schools Plan.

Maximizing in-person instruction time

Plan Summary:

Operating schools and meeting the needs of students

Plan Summary:

Purchase of educational technology

Plan Summary:

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:

Additional half-time Middle School Counselor. Students in need of Tier I/II classroom interventions, organization, SEL, study skills. Students identified as having trouble in the hybrid/remote setting. Those students who were referred to Pupil Assistance Team, Social Services and Probation.

Additional half-time Elementary School Guidance Counselor. The lives and social-emotional well-being of the elementary age population and families have been greatly impacted by the pandemic. A guidance counselor would serve an integral role on the mental health team, along with social workers and psychologists. The services would include social-emotion learning lessons in classrooms, consultation and PD for staff, and individual/small group work with students, and outreach to families.

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

Plan Summary:

High School: Hiring of additional Teacher Assistants assigned to Department Resource Centers to be utilized as additional academic supports for students. Students would utilize these opportunities

throughout the day - drop in during study halls, utilize during AAP, etc... This would allow for greater scheduling flexibility and additional support to help close the existing gaps in all subject areas.

AIS Math Teacher: Increase .6 FTE in Math to allow for the Math Department to offer much needed AIS Math courses.

AIS Math Teachers at all three Elementary Schools. Our student learning has been impacted by the pandemic, especially with the drastic reduction in AIS math support. An AIS math position would bolster student learning and achievement, while reducing referrals to special education.

Middle School Teachers: Add a "Half-Team" to grade 7 and to grade 8. (Combo Grade 7/8) This will limit sections to 22 students. Identify 5-7 students who were challenged by remote learning, who had difficulty with school.

Elementary School: Added a 4th section of grade 5 in order to reduce class sizes.

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

Plan Summary:

Increasing staffing for BH-BL HS Summer School program to teach additional sections. This proposal would allow more students to take advantage of summer school and potentially recover more credit, as the options of what can be offered will expand.

A variety of new K-12 intensive/high-dosage after-school tutoring programs as well as enrichment programs are being developed to address the impact of COVID-19 on all our students.

Supporting early childhood education.

Plan Summary:

Other areas of student performance and need.

Plan Summary:

Questions regarding our plan

Please contact Brenda Kane (Grant Administrator) 518-399-9141 Ext. 85025