



**West Point Consolidated School District  
American Rescue Plan, ESSER Fund Allocations  
(Press Release)**

West Point Consolidated School District (WPCSD) recently received the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Use of Funds Plan approval from the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). The district received \$13,060,972.00 in ARP ESSER federal relief funds. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law on March 11, 2021. ARP ESSER, like previous COVID-19 federal relief funds, has been distributed to Mississippi public schools with top priorities including improving internet connectivity and access to technology for all students, particularly for rural and low-income students, addressing students' social, emotional, mental health and academic needs resulting from the pandemic.

The district based the allocation of funds on needs surveys from internal and external stakeholders, student assessments, administrative team meetings and COVID information provided by medical professionals, Mississippi Department of Health and CDC guidance. Each budgeted item under ARP ESSER met one or more of the fifteen allowed uses established by the federal government.

Each district receiving federal relief funding is required to set aside 20% for learning loss. The district budgeted over two million dollars for interventionists, additional supplement teachers, summer school programs, after school programs, instructional technology coaches, software, and instructional materials to meet this requirement.

Over 6.9 million dollars will be used for building improvements including classroom and restroom additions at South Side, Fifth Street, West Point High School North, and installation and replacement of HVAC units at East Side, South Side, West Clay, Fifth Street, WPHS North, WPHS South and the Career and Technology Center. The estimated completion date for these projects is 2024.

Additional funding for these projects was allocated in the district's Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (ESSER II).

Other uses of ARP ESSER include nurses' salaries to promote safe and healthy schools, computer technicians' salaries and continue technology purchases promoting the district's 1:1 initiative originally funded by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (ESSER I).

In 2021, the U.S. Department of Education allocated more than 1.6 billion to Mississippi, with the final release of \$543 million in December 2021. This federal stimulus is the third act of federal relief in response to COVID-19. Previous federal relief funding includes the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law on March 27, 2020 and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, signed into law on December 27, 2020.