



*Pope County Community Unit  
School District #1*



*125 State Hwy. 146W  
Golconda, IL 62938*

*Ryan Fritch, Superintendent  
Phone: (618) 683-2301  
Fax: (618) 683-5181*

**Pope County CUSD #1**

**ESSER III Funds USE Plan**

Pope County CUSD #1 will utilize the ESSER III funds to implement strategies to provide a bridge for learning loss throughout the district. We are continually working on ways to close the learning gaps and to provide a way to safely operate schools for in-person learning. These strategies are ever evolving and are not limited to the following:

- Pope County CUSD #1 will use ESSER III Funds to provide a rich after school curriculum and a summer school program in Fiscal Year 2024. (\$60,961)
- ESSER III funding will focus on mitigation and learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (\$61,129)
- Support staff (School Counselor) to meet SEL needs brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. (\$25,286)
- Pope County CUSD #1 will utilize a multitude of support materials: textbooks, educational programs, online support programs, and personnel to bridge the educational gap. (\$4,248)
- Providing quality transportation to accommodate social distancing and quality air control. (\$240,000)
- Pope County CUSD #1 will use ESSER III funding to increase the quality of indoor air and make it more safe for students to have access to in-person learning. (\$580,406)
- Provide a quality and safe in-person learning environment.
- Pope County CUSD #1 will use funds to mitigate COVID 19 within the school system.

Pope County CUSD #1 will implement intervention programs such as: Edmentum, IXL, Renaissance Learning, and Saxon Math Curriculum to help the academic growth of students and learning loss. We as a district will also evaluate the social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students (low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, homelessness, foster care, and migratory students) impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and facilitate those students as needed.

Pope County CUSD #1 will also engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders (students, families, civil rights organizations, school administrators, school leaders, educators, special education co-op, and other staff) to evaluate the needs of all students within the district. By doing so, the district will have a more accurate approach at purchasing needed equipment, educational programs, and transportation to better accommodate all students at Pope County CUSD #1 to provide a safer in-person learning environment.

Pope County CUSD #1 will provide the public the opportunity to have input in the development of the district use of ESSER III funds by allowing public comment at local school board meetings to address concerns of learning loss, mitigation, and students' mental/physical wellbeing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pope County CUSD #1 is optimistic that the funds presented by ESSER III will help with identifying those students that were impacted by loss of instruction from the pandemic and will help re-engage and provide support, through the purchasing of needed materials, equipment, transportation, and hiring new staff to close the gap and provide a safe in-person learning environment that has been produced from COVID-19.

All purchases through the ESSER III funding will be directly based on student need.

Pope County CUSD #1 has implemented an equitable and inclusive Back-to-School Plan that can be viewed on the district webpage to inform the public and parents of the policies and practices of the opening of school.

ESSER III funds will also be utilized to help support early childhood educational programs with a vast assortment of educational support to help determine the learning loss and close the learning gap that has been produced due to the COVID-19 pandemic.