

Richland Springs ISD

Home of the Coyotes and Lady Coyotes

ESSER III Use of Funds Plan

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

Introduction

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act statute requires that LEAs develop and make publicly available their plans for the use of funds after having engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders. A summary of Richland Springs ISD's plans for ESSER III funding, aligned to four required components, is below.

Public Comment & Stakeholder Input

This plan was developed in consultation with stakeholders after soliciting public comment via an electronic survey, community-wide town hall meeting, and an invitation for small group meetings at parent request.

Effective Date & Publication of Plan

The plan was written on July 15, 2021 and posted to the LEA website July 15, 2021. Should revisions to the plan/ become necessary, the plan will be updated and a revised version posted on the website.

Required Components of Use of Funds Plan

Statute requires that LEAs describe its use of funds according to four components:

1. Prevention and mitigation strategies consistent to the latest CDC guidance on reopening schools in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. (LEAs are not required to use ESSER III funds for this activity.)
2. How LEA will use funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year
3. How LEA will spend its remaining funds to meet the intent and purpose of ESSER III
4. How LEA will ensure the interventions address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by COVID19, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

Plan for Funding to Address Impact on Learning

Statute requires a minimum of 20% of ESSER III funding to be directed toward activities that address learning loss. This requirement is separated among two components:

- **Component #2:** Evidence-based interventions; and
- **Component #4:** Interventions that ensure the social, emotional, mental health needs of students are met

Initial 2/3 Entitlement:	\$206,661	20% of Entitlement: \$ 41,332 <i>(minimum allowed)</i>
Total (initial + final amts.) Entitlement:	\$309,992	20% of Entitlement: \$ 61,998 <i>(minimum allowed)</i>
Amount Directed Toward Learning Loss: \$ 61,998		

Component #2: Evidence-based Interventions

Richland Springs ISD will address learning loss through the following activities:

- RSISD teachers will pay teachers to tutor students on weekends, after-school, and/or during off-contract time in small-group settings (1:3) in an effort to address learning loss.
- RSISD will purchase chromebooks, supplemental workbooks, and appropriate software in an effort to engage, remediate, and document academic gains related to learning loss for students in grades 3-8.
- RSISD will provide a summer enrichment program for all students grades 3-11 who choose to attend.
- RSISD will provide equipment, hardware/software, and other components necessary to engage all of the students in our CTE programs.
- RSISD will purchase teacher computers and software that will allow for meaningful, rigorous instructional opportunities for all of our students if distance learning had to be implemented again.

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years:

- 2021-2022 school year
- 2022-2023 school year

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activities aligned with ESEA ● Activities aligned with IDEA ● Activities aligned with Adult Education & Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) ● Activities aligned with Perkins CTE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purchase educational technology to aid educational interaction (students/teachers) ● Plan/implement summer learning & after-school programs ● Address learning loss (assessments; comprehensive needs of students; PFE support; tracking remote attendance/engagement) |
|--|--|

Component #4: Interventions Addressing Academic, Social, Emotional Needs of Students

Richland Springs ISD will provide interventions responding academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, in particular underserved groups*, through the following activities:

- RSISD will purchase a survey software that will assess the mental health and well-being of our student body.
- RSISD will pay the salary of a district-wide counselor to provide explicit instruction in social, emotional and cognitive skills.

**Underserved groups: low-income students; students of color; English learners; students with disabilities; students experiencing homelessness; children in foster care; migratory students*

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years:

- 2021-2022 school year
- 2022-2023 school year

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

- Address student needs: low-income, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth
- Purchase educational technology to aid educational interaction (students/teachers)
- Provide mental health services and supports (incl. implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools & hiring counselors)
- Address learning loss (assessments; comprehensive needs of students; PFE support; tracking remote attendance/engagement)

Plan for Other Needs

Statute requires that the remaining funds ($\leq 80\%$ of ESSER III entitlement) be spent on other needs aligned with the intent and purpose of ESSER III. This requirement is separated among two components:

- **Component #1:** Prevention and Mitigation Strategies (optional use of ESSER III); and
- **Component #3:** Remaining use of ESSER funds aligned to safely reopening and sustaining the safe operation of schools and addressing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students

Initial 2/3 Entitlement: \$ 206,661	80% of Entitlement: \$165,329 <i>(maximum allowed)</i>
Total (initial + final amts.) Entitlement: \$ 309,992	80% of Entitlement: \$ 247,934 <i>(maximum allowed)</i>
Amount Directed Toward Other Needs: \$ 247,994	

Component #1: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

Richland Springs ISD will provide prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with CDC guidance (to the greatest extent possible) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning.

Richland Springs ISD is supporting these strategies through ESSER III funding and will include the following:

- RSISD will employ another custodian in an effort to provide enough support to ensure all mitigation strategies regarding CDC guidelines are met in order to safely open and operate our school for in-person learning.
- RSISD will provide all staff with any professional development needed to sanitize.
- RSISD will continue to purchase PPE gear and sanitation supplies.

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years:

- 2021-2022 school year
- 2022-2023 school year

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

- Strategies/Protocols aligned to CDC guidance (reopening/operating)
- Coordinating to prevent, prepare for, respond to COVID19
- PD: sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean
- Develop & implement procedures and systems to improve preparedness & response efforts of LEAs

Component #3: Remaining Use of Funds

Richland Springs ISD will use the remaining funds to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students. The following activities are planned:

- RSISD will assess, repair, and improve various school facilities and HVAC systems in effort to improve air quality and reduce the risk of exposure to various health hazards, specifically COVID-19.
- RSISD will purchase a bus in an effort to ensure social distancing in effort to reduce the risk of exposure of COVID-19.

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years:

- 2021-2022 school year
- 2022-2023 school year

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

- Repairing & improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus/exposure to health hazards
- Improving indoor air quality
- Develop & implement procedures and systems to improve preparedness & response efforts of LEAs
- Plan/implement activities during long-term closures, (meals to eligible students; provide technology for online learning; guidance for IDEA requirements; ensure other ed. services continue per federal, state, local requirements)
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of services, including continuing to employ existing or hiring new LEA and school staff