



American Rescue Plan – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 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. Phoenix Central School District has been allocated \$4,491,766.

Of this total, 20% of the ESSER3 funds and \$700,000 of the State Budget allocations are earmarked specifically for the District to address learning loss which can include summer enrichment and after school programs. The remaining \$3,791,766 can be used for other allowable uses within the grant.

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.

To date, the district has formed a committee comprised of administration, teachers, union representatives and a parent. The committee has identified the following ways for the district to utilize this funding:

Safely returning students to in-person instruction

Plan Summary:

The district will purchase personal protection equipment, face masks, temperature screening devices, cleaning equipment and supplies, safety markings and additional furniture / flexible seating.

The district will invest in additional air quality controls, windows, doors, etc. to improve indoor air quality.

The district will purchase additional desks (single-ribbon) that may be configured in groups of 2, 4, 6+.

The district will pay for increased overtime custodial costs due to increased cleaning protocols.

The district will hire additional custodial workers for increased cleaning protocols.

The district will utilize funds to construct outdoor learning environments and locations.

Maximizing in-person instruction time

Plan Summary:

The district will hire additional substitute teachers and teaching assistants to ensure that all students are back on campus as much as possible each day.

Operating schools and meeting the needs of students

Plan Summary:

The district will hire a Math Teacher at the elementary school. The district will continue to support this position following the grant period by adjusting staff based on enrollment.

The district will analyze district data to identify learning loss. Interventions will be provided during and after school hours to close instructional gaps.

The district will sue funds to create a middle and/or high school at-risk program for students.

The district will provide faculty and staff with professional development in the following areas:

- Early Literacy
- Social Emotional Learning
- Response to Intervention
- Curriculum & Standards

- Common Interim Assessments
- Data Analysis / Goal Setting
- Increasing Performance of our Students With Disabilities
- Exemplary Instructional Practices
- Character Building
- Technology

Purchase of educational technology

Plan Summary:

The district will continue to upgrade instructional technology by purchasing Chromebooks, management software, connectivity, assistive technology, stylus, headphones, interactive classroom panels and internet transmission upgrades.

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:

The district will provide increased professional development for faculty and staff in the areas of working with diverse populations, social emotional learning, students with disabilities, ELL, differentiated instruction, curriculum and instruction, etc.

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

Plan Summary:

The district will hire an additional social worker at the middle school. The District may continue supporting these positions following the grant period adjusting staffing based on enrollment.

The district will hire a counselor at the elementary school. The District may continue supporting these positions following the grant period adjusting staffing based on enrollment.

The district will also use funds to pay for mental health services provided by outside agencies (ex: Liberty Resources). Outside agencies will provide small group and one-on-one counseling for students.

The district will use funds to pay for professional development in the areas of social emotional curriculum work (ex: Erin's Law), equity and inclusion, BIMAS, etc.

The district will use funds to pay for materials and supplies associated with parent nights focused on social emotional, mental health and academic needs.

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

Plan Summary:

The district will offer summer school programs for students in all 3 of our school buildings (PreK-4, 5-8 and 9-12).

The district will provide Afterschool Academic Support Programs to students in identified academic areas of need.

The district will provide Summer Camps / School Break Camps in a variety of areas in Summer 2022 and Summer 2023. Summer Camps / Break Camps will take place in a variety of subject areas (PE, Art, Writing, Technology, Math, Foreign Language, etc.).

The district will use funds to pay for tutoring programs (teacher-student and/ or peer tutoring).

Supporting early childhood education.

Plan Summary:

The district will utilize funds to pay for UPK transportation.

Other areas of student performance and need.

Plan Summary: To be allocated over 3 years (2021-2024)

Professional salaries to fund: \$2,986,146

- Staff Development
- Summer instruction
- Social worker
- Guidance Counselor
- RTI Teachers

Support Staff Salaries: \$165,000

- Additional Building Cleaners

School Safety & Security: \$27,000

- Summer SRO's for buildings

Air Quality Improvements: \$278,000

- Replace old air handlers (EJD)

O&M & Food Service Equipment: \$145,570

- Coolers for Food Service
- Combine Ovens
- Classroom Sanitizers
- Floor Cleaners
- Social Worker Vehicle

Employee Benefits: \$190,050

- Social Security tax
- Medicare Tax

Total: \$3,791,766