

Sussex County Public Schools ARP ESSER Plan

Sussex County Public Schools
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Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' **academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs**. Sussex County Public Schools has been awarded **\$4,035,827.78** in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Mr. Morris N. Taylor or Mr. John Broderick at (434) 246-1099.

Section 2: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

ARP Act ESSER III funds may be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. Sussex County Public Schools will use approximately **\$1,429,348.00** of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below.

Sussex County Public Schools in accordance with CDC guidelines will use approximately \$1,284,896.00 to add new rooftop compressors to the middle school. This will allow for better air quality in the building for our students and will also give them ventilated air in an environment that is conducive for learning. The division will also use funds to buy masks, cleaning supplies, and maintain safety through the use of air purifiers, vaporizers, and sprayers in our classrooms and throughout the school building.

Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA to use twenty percent of its formula funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. Sussex County Public Schools will use approximately **\$1,331,440 – at least 20% of total grant** of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

Sussex County Public Schools will use at least 20% of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address learning loss that has taken place during the pandemic. The division will utilize instructional coaches in all three schools during the school day to meet with students who demonstrate the lowest academic achievement. The schools will also employ teachers for after school teaching programs and will also have SOAR Summer Academies at the end of the school year. These academies will consist of academic remediation

and enrichment programs that will focus on Reading and Math. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in STEAM and other creative arts programs.

Section 4: Other Uses of Funds

Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act permits school divisions to use the ARP Act ESSER III funding not reserved to address unfinished learning to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways. Sussex County Public Schools will use approximately \$286,790.48 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

Sussex County Public Schools recognizes that students and staff have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in a variety of ways. In accordance with CDC guidelines and the ARP ESSER III act, the school division will employ social emotional coaches at each school to address the needs of our students and staff. The division will also employ trauma coaches to deal with the traumatic needs of our students.

Section 5: Addressing Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The mental health crisis in the county is at a critical point. The pandemic has exacerbated an already alarming trend in mental health needs of our students. As a school district we will utilize the positions of school counselors, trauma coaches, and emotional coaches to create a nurturing environment for children, families, and educators to address these mental health needs, and to provide an overall well-being of our students. We will prioritize wellness for each and every child, and enhance mental health literacy by reducing stigmas and other barriers that limit access to evidence-based prevention practices. We will establish an integrated framework of educational, social, emotional, and behavioral-health support for all students and staff. These steps will allow the district to promote equitable implementation to all students and staff.

Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Sussex County Public Schools conducted consultation in the following ways:

- With stakeholders, including: students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions – **The district sent out a survey soliciting the input of all community stakeholders. The findings in the survey were used in the development and implementation of the ARP ESSER III plan;**
- With Tribes (if applicable); civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students – **via an online survey in both the English and Spanish language, and via input provided by the schools in the division; and**
- By providing the public the opportunity to provide input **via an online survey** and taking such input into account.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

Sussex County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at www.sussex.k12.va.us **on our divisional webpage under quick links;**
- The plan is available in multiple languages **(English and Spanish);**

- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact **Sussex County Public Schools at (434) 246-1099** to request translation; and
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting **Sussex County Public Schools at (434) 246-1099**.

