

On Thursday, March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law. It is an unprecedented \$1.9 trillion package of assistance measures, including \$122 billion for the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund. Funds are provided to State educational agencies and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Nation's students. The District submitted its final grant plan on November 21, 2021. More information for NJ can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/education/esser/arp/>

LEA Plan for Use Of Funds

1. The extent to which and how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;

The District will continue to follow the CDC's guidance to the fullest. Our protocols and procedures directly correlate with the CDC's guidelines and are reflected in our Safe Return handbook for the public to see. A major recommendation among COVID prevention strategies is to address air circulation, flow, and filtration. The district will seek to replace HVAC systems where efficiencies can be achieved.

2. How the LEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year;

The District will hire two interventionists to help students struggling due to the loss of instructional time. A summer program will also be offered for struggling students.

3. How the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act;

The remaining ESSER funds will be used for HVAC, outdoor classroom spaces, PPE, and multi-use space renovations.

4. How the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions implemented under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to 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 the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students. Under this requirement, an LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of its plan. Specifically, an LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions.

Through coordination with AtlanticCare, a school health specialist will be assigned to work with students, parents, families, and staff on areas pertaining to resiliency, social and emotional learning, and wellness.

5. Additionally, an LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with each of the following, to the extent present in or served by the LEA: Tribes; 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.

We will continue to reach out to these subgroups through meetings, emails, and surveys to gather as much input as possible.