

Seaford UFSD

ARP-ESSR Funding 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 by July 1, 2021 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. The Seaford Union Free School District has been allocated \$1,131,345. Furthermore, of this total, \$100,002 is to be used to support summer enrichment and programming, \$100,002 to support after-school programming and \$586,265 to address learning loss.

School Districts are required to seek public comment from stakeholders on the planned use of funds. Before posting this plan, the District formed a committee that encompassed members of the Board of Education, the Seaford community, teachers, building level administrators and other stakeholders and took comments into account with the development of this plan. The following plan is required to be revised and modified on a regular basis, but not less than every six months.

Districts are also required to prioritize spending on ***non-recurring*** expenses in the following areas:

- 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
- Other areas of student performance and need.

Lastly, 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.

Operating schools and meeting the needs of students:

Plan Summary:

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unpredictable learning environment regarding the extent of remedial services. We anticipate that students will need a higher level of support and guidance. These services are two-fold: social emotional learning and academic achievement. Maintaining a smaller teacher to student ratio will be a focus combined with implementing universal social emotional learning programs such as Lions Quest, Habits of Mind and RULER.

Funds will be used to lower class sizes and implement district-wide SEL programs.

Purchase of educational technology:

Plan Summary:

Our district currently employs a Personalized Digital Learning (PDL) Program which supplies each student with a personal mobile device. Students in grades K-2 use the Seesaw platform on iPad devices and students in grades 3-12 use Microsoft Teams on HP laptops. At the elementary, middle and high school levels, we will be enhancing the instructional technology by providing advanced technology tools and equipment. We will also bolster technologies used in science, art and technology labs. These upgrades will improve the learning experiences across all grade levels.

Funds will be used to supplement the use of existing devices, purchase supplemental equipment and add new applications.

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 continue to provide resources to enrich our programs for students with disabilities and those who are English Language Learners. In order to address this objective, the district will provide sensory tools and devices for students with disabilities in grades K-12. In addition, we are committed to continuing to identify and serve English Language Learners and students with disabilities through research-based reading programs.

Funds will be used to purchase therapeutic equipment, provide professional development and enhance our comprehensive reading program.

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

Plan Summary:

The COVID-19 pandemic has hindered the social and emotional development of our students. We have seen a decline in social interactions as a result of multiple quarantines, students selecting remote instruction and a lessening of school activities. Last year we experienced a rise in critical mental health cases. The district will further support the mental health needs of our students by hiring Pupil Personnel faculty. Teachers will receive appropriate levels of training including the work of Dr. Mark Brackett and his RULER approach. In addition, to support the students in this post-pandemic stage, we will be implementing a reading intervention program for gap reduction.

Funds will be used to provide for additional psychologists to target the needs of students and to hire consultants to focus on social emotional learning. In addition, supplemental materials for the reading intervention program will be purchased.

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

Plan Summary:

Students may have lost learning opportunities over the last year. We will identify students with learning losses and target their needs for academic and social- emotional support. We will be enhancing our academic summer school program. In addition, we are creating Summer Experience camps focusing on developing a sense of belongingness for our students through a variety of engaging activities. Lastly, students will be able to receive after school support.

Funds will be used for summer enrichment programs at both the elementary and secondary levels as well as introducing afterschool programs district wide.

Other areas of student performance and need.

Plan Summary:

During the past school year, students were deprived of traditional instruction in music and physical education classes due to the COVID social distancing restrictions. To improve student engagement, we are supplementing these programs with new equipment that will enhance the students' school and extracurricular experiences.

Funds will be used for improving the equipment within our music and physical education programs.