

ESSER II & III - 2021-2022 Safe Schooling Plan

This document is to serve as notification of Western Springs School District #101's plan for the safe reopening of schools in the 2021-2022 school year. Likewise, the purpose is to outline how funds from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) will be used by the district. This plan focuses on four areas to ensure the safety of our students and staff as well as addresses learning loss that may have occurred during the COVID-19 global pandemic. The four areas of focus are:

- Academic Supports
- Social/Emotional Programs
- Health/Safety Resources, and
- Capital Improvements.

Academic Supports

Research is clear, there is no substitute for a high-quality, in-person teaching experience to ensure student academic success. The global pandemic interrupted our instructional model and forced schools to provide instruction in a variety of ways (e.g. remote, hybrid, asynchronous, etc.). As we return to full-time in-person instruction we will:

- Use academic testing to identify learning Gaps
- Implement in-school reading and math interventions
- Maximize research-based curricular programs
- Provide educational technology to support learning
- Implement activities and services related to summer learning
- Address the needs of at-risk children, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, students who must maintain a remote learning platform due to significant medical needs, and foster care youth

Notes: Our plan recognizes that no less than 20% of all ESSER III funds must be used to address learning loss. The cost interventions listed above comprise more than 20% of the funds granted. Likewise, we believe these supports are sustainable beyond the issuance of these funds and will continue to support students for years to come.

Social/Emotional Supports

We recognize that living through a global pandemic has taken an emotional toll on our students, families and staff. It is clear that schools will play a vital role in helping students return to a sense of normalcy and deal with inconsistencies associated with the pandemic. As we return to full-time in-person instruction we will:

- Implement research-based SEL programs
- Provide social work support to students who experienced trauma and other mental

health related challenges

- Offer and promote extracurricular opportunities to students.
- Provide professional development for teachers in the area of social/emotional learning
- Continue to offer proactive assessments of mental health
- Provide parent learning opportunities to allow parents to support their children at home

Notes: Given the developmental differences of elementary and middle school students, the response to the social/emotional needs of our students will look different at our elementary schools versus McClure.

Health and Safety Resources

The health and safety of our students and staff is always our top priority. The COVID-19 Global Pandemic has taught us important lessons on how to ensure the safety of our students and staff. These include, but are not limited to cleaning protocols, hand sanitizing, physical distancing, and virus suppression. While the vaccine provides some sense of protection, we will continue to require additional safety measures for the 2021-2022 school year. As we return to full-time in-person instruction we will:

- Use approved cleansers for frequently touched surfaces on a nightly basis
- Purchase supplies to sanitize and clean facilities
- Implementing on-site diagnostic testing as appropriate, necessary or required
- Implement other safety protocols as appropriate, necessary or required

Capital Improvements

ESSER funds provide districts with the opportunity to address facility issues that may need to be addressed within their schools. These capital improvements may help bridge the digital divide, improve the learning environment, expand learning spaces or make schools safer for students and staff. As we return to full-time in-person instruction we will:

- Implement HVAC components to address and improve air quality
- Expand classroom and other instructional spaces as appropriate
- Provide/enhance outdoor wifi access
- Purchase in-class technology to enhance instruction (e.g. interactive boards, streaming devices, student devices, etc.)
- Large space AV/sound system Enhancements
- Enhance current learning spaces

Public Comments

Members of the District 101 school community who would like to provide feedback on the ESSER fund expenditure plan are welcome to do so by accessing the following [link](#).