

Cassadaga Valley Central School District
American Rescue Plan – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Program (ARP-ESSER)
Funding Plan

The 2020-21 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 (ARO-ESSER) to post on its website a plan 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. Cassadaga Valley CSD has been allocated \$3,363,120.

Of this total, \$1,087,220 is earmarked specifically to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions. Another \$200,000 is required to be spent on summer and after school programming for students. The remainder of the funds are intended to respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Additionally, these funds are to support Cassadaga Valley’s plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

District are required to prioritize spending on non-recurring expenses in the following areas;

- Safely returning students to in-person instruction;
- Maximizing in-person instructional 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, the district 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. Cassadaga Valley CSD has met with stakeholders to gather input needed on resources to address post pandemic schooling. The administrative team has met to review and discuss the input from stakeholders to develop a plan for the use of these funds as well as a plan beyond the availability of these additional federal funds.

Safely returning students to in-person instruction:

The health and safety of district staff and students is our top priority. In order to ensure this, our plan seeks to;

- Increase the number of teachers to reduce class sizes to comply with potential social distancing requirements set forth by the New York State Department of Health, the Chautauqua County Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.
- Maintain cleaning and disinfecting safety protocols.

Maximizing in-person instruction time:

- Increasing the number of teachers to reduce class sizes will allow for 100% of our Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 students back into the classroom 5 days per week.
- Providing targeted professional development to staff to identify any learning gaps that may have occurred due to the pandemic and providing support through curriculum based measures and researched based interventions to alleviate any learning gaps.

Operating schools and meeting the needs of students:

- Additional student support staff to the Cassadaga Valley CSD that can implement and maintain measures to meet the needs of all students
 - Implementation of a school based health clinic to support the health and well-being of both students and the community.

- Building a restorative practices program to enhance the school climate and culture to assist in transitioning all students to post pandemic schooling.
- Provide preventative measures to improve student performance towards learning standards and to improve graduation rates for all students.
- Enhance the parental outreach program by our Student Support Team.

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:

- Professional development for teachers to address learning gaps and to make adjustments to pacing, curriculum and scope and sequence.
- Substitutes to allow for the development of instructional support personnel to implement researched based methods for diverse learners.
- Enhancement and oversight of Response to Intervention and data teams

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

Cassadaga Valley Central School District will be providing afterschool and summer enrichment programs for 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years.

- Programming will offer project based learning opportunities, Cougar U and evidence based interventions to support post pandemic schooling.

Supporting early childhood education:

- Promote smaller class sizes to help students learn to read well and to increase their ability to succeed in advanced subjects in the later grades.