

# 10360 - ESSER III 3/20-9/24 84.425U - 2021

## Status Report Details

**Funding Opportunity:** 9830-ESSER III - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund III  
**Program Area:** CARES-CRRSA-ARP  
**Status:** Approved  
**Status Report Number:** 001  
**Status Report Type:** Application  
**Reporting Period:** -

**Initial Submit Date:** Jul 14, 2021 12:39 PM  
**Initially Submitted By:** Sheila Schlafmann  
**Last Submit Date:** Sep 23, 2021 12:13 PM  
**Last Submitted By:** Sheila Schlafmann  
**Approved Date:** Sep 24, 2021 11:53 AM

## Contact Information

### Primary Contact Information

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### Organization Information

**Name\*:** Turtle Lake-Mercer Public School - DPI  
**Organization Type\*:** Public LEA  
**Tax Id:**  
**Organization Website:** <http://www.tlm.k12.nd.us>  
**Address\*:** PO Box 160

Turtle Lake North Dakota 58575-\_\_\_\_  
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**SAM.gov Entity ID:** RDJ4MG1MGKJ7  
**SAM.gov Name:** Turtle Lake Mercer School District 72  
**SAM.gov Entity ID Expiration Date:** 05/06/2022

## ESSER III Application - Stakeholder Consultation

### *Stakeholder Consultation*

#### **Students\*:**

Students were surveyed on their interests for the 7th - 12th grade schedule in the winter/spring of 2021. We had the opportunity to add a FACS program due to the extra ESSER funds the school would be receiving. There was great interest in adding this program to the 7th - 12th grade schedule. Our Health and Safety Plan committee included administration, students, teachers, staff, community experts, board members, and parents. All patrons of Turtle Lake - Mercer were invited for public comment at the June 21st, 2021 and July 19th, 2021 where the TL-M board reviewed the Use of Funds for both ESSER II and ESSER III. We will also be holding a meeting on Tuesday, August 17th at 5:00 PM in the gym to review our Return to In-person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan, 2020 - 2021 Data, Title I Plan, ESSER II and III applications so anyone can ask questions and see the information in person.

#### **Tribes (if applicable)-MUST write NA if not applicable\*:**

NA

#### **Civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations)\*:**

Turtle Lake - Mercer posts their board meeting agendas at least three days in advance on the school website and in the building. We had a committee meet on June 9th, 2021 to discuss the use of funds for both ESSER II and III, an agenda was posted and an email invitation was sent to all staff members inviting them to the meeting to be part of the process. Our superintendent is our Title IX/Civil Rights coordinator. Our principal and business manager are also part of our Title IX/Civil Rights team and were part of the meeting on June 9th where input was shared regarding the spending of ESSER III funds. ESSER spending was an agenda item at the June 21st, 2021 and July 19th, 2021 where the TL-M board reviewed the Use of Funds for both ESSER II and ESSER III. We will also be holding a meeting on Tuesday, August 17th at 5:00 PM in the gym to review our Return to In-person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan, 2020 - 2021 Data, Title I Plan, ESSER II and III applications so anyone can ask questions and see the information in person.

#### **Superintendents\*:**

TL-M conducted many surveys throughout the 2020 - 2021 school year looking for input on what staff and educators needed. A variety of staff/teachers were included as members of the 2020 Health and Safety and Distance Learning Plan committees. All school personnel (teachers, principal, superintendent, other educators, school staff, and union members) were invited to a meeting in June 2021 to discuss the Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, as well as, how to spend ESSER II and III dollars. The district superintendent facilitated this meeting and provided needed materials for all who were present to be able to participate and have access to materials in order to make informed decisions and provide feedback. All Turtle Lake - Mercer patrons and staff were invited for public comment at the June 21st, 2021 and July 19th, 2021 where the TL-M board reviewed the Use of Funds for both ESSER II and ESSER III. We will also be holding a meeting on Tuesday, August 17th at 5:00 PM in the gym to review our Return to In-person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan, 2020 - 2021 Data, Title I Plan, ESSER II and III applications so anyone can ask questions and see the information in person. The district superintendent prepared the agendas for the meetings, drafted the Return to In-person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan, and organized survey data for meetings.

#### **Teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions\*:**

TL-M conducted many surveys throughout the 2020 - 2021 school year looking for input on what staff and educators needed. A variety of staff/teachers and community/parents were included as members of the 2020 Health and Safety and Distance Learning Plan committees. All school personnel (teachers, principal, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and union members) were invited to a meeting on June 9th, 2021 to discuss the Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, as well as, how to spend ESSER II and III dollars.

**Stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students\*:**

All stakeholders of Turtle Lake - Mercer were welcome to the June 21st, 2021 and July 19th, 2021 where the TL-M board reviewed the Use of Funds for both ESSER II and ESSER III, time was given for public comment. We will also be holding a meeting on Tuesday, August 17th at 5:00 PM in the gym to review our Return to In-person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan, 2020 - 2021 Data, Title I Plan, ESSER II and III applications so anyone can ask questions and see the information in person.

### **ESSER III Approved Applications**

**District confirms the approved ESSER III application will be posted to their website for public access.\*:** Yes

## **ESSER III Application**

### **Prevention & Mitigation Strategies**

**Return to In-Person Instruction Plan\*:** <https://www.tlm.k12.nd.us/>  
LEA Website Link (copy from browser-must include http)

**District confirms the plan will be updated at least every six months through September 2024 and will seek ongoing public input on the plan.\*:** Yes

**Describe how ARP ESSER III funds will be used by the district to implement prevention and mitigation strategies.\*:**

A copy of the TL-M Return to In-person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan can be found at <https://www.tlm.k12.nd.us/>, on the right-hand side of the page go to "more" under that drop down menu go to "Covid-19" there you will find the TL-M plan and use of funds.

TL-M will also be paying the salary and benefits for the principal, this will allow us to account for some budgetary shortfalls and give our tax payers a break as it has been a tough spring and summer due to drought conditions across the state and in our communities of Turtle Lake and Mercer, as well as for those families who have experienced hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By using ESSER III funds to pay for the principal salary and benefits, we will have room in our budget to pay for increased cleaning supplies, possible over-time for custodial staff, and other needed items to help prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

TL-M will continue to run an additional lunch shift to spread students out in the cafeteria. We will continue to use an additional staff member in the cafeteria to help with serving food, this will be paid for with local dollars. Custodial staff hours will remain adjusted so that evening cleaning can be done more thoroughly. TL-M staff will continue to encourage families to stay home if they are not feeling well. The use of bottle fillers is readily available. The district has upgraded almost all bathrooms to touchless toilets, sinks, soap dispensers, and paper towel dispensers. Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the building. Air purifiers are located in all classrooms and offices. Flooring in the PreK - 3 classrooms and FACS rooms is being upgraded to a hard surface to allow for easier and more frequent cleaning. Classrooms and buses will continue to be fogged at the end of each school day. TL-M will continue to the use of eCare nursing services.

### **Learning Loss**

**Describe how the district will use the mandatory 20% set-aside to address the academic impact of learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.\*:**

Turtle Lake - Mercer District 72 is hiring an additional special education teacher. Hiring an additional special education teacher will give students more time working with a certified teacher instead of a paraprofessional. TL-M 72 is also increasing their CTE offerings by adding a FACS (Family and Consumer Science) program in the 2021 - 2022 school year.

TL-M is adding an additional special education teacher in the 2021 - 22 school year to work with our students on IEPs. By adding an additional special education teacher our special education teachers will have a smaller caseload meaning they have fewer IEPs to manage and fewer kids on their caseload so they will be able to spend more time working directly with their students instead of a paraprofessional working with our students with the highest academic and social/emotional needs. We also lost our special education this past year so we are providing additional pay to transition one of our classroom teachers out of the classroom and into the special education classroom.

TL-M is also adding a FACS program in the 2021 - 22 school year. By adding a FACS program our students will have more in-house opportunities for learning and we will not need to rely on ITV or online options for our students. ESSER funds are being used to transition the FACS room from a regular classroom to a FACS room with all the needed supplies, equipment, and teacher.

***Needs of Students Disproportionately Impacted***

**Describe how the district will respond to the needs of students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Address each stakeholder group.\*:**

Turtle Lake - Mercer District 72 is hiring an additional special education teacher and adding a FACS program in the 2021 - 2022 school year.

Low-income families: About 20% of TL-M students qualify for Free and Reduced Lunches. TL-M will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students in the district. TL-M also offers the Backpack Program to students/families in need. TL-M waives the technology fee and participation fees for any student or family that is unable to pay or qualifies for free and reduced lunches. Our community has a food pantry and a Share Exchange where families are able to get free food, clothing, and other household and school items they might need. TL-M has school supplies and backpacks for students who need or come without the needed materials for school. All students are provided an iPad in grades K - 4 and a Chromebook in grades 5 - 12.

Students of color: About 4% of TL-M students identify as African American, Hispanic, or American Indian. TL-M will ensure these students have equal access to technology, class enrollments, school extra-curriculars, etc. School counselor and staff will ensure students social/emotional and academic needs are being met and provide assistance if needed to keep them on-track.

English Learners: 0%, TL-M will continue to contract services through CREA if a student needing to be assessed or receive services enrolls in our district. TL-M has policies in place for these students.

Children with disabilities: About 15% of TL-M students qualify for an IEP. TL-M is adding an additional special education teacher to work with this group of students so students have more time working with a teacher and so the teacher has fewer students on their caseload to focus on. Students will continue to receive small group or individual instruction. Paraprofessionals will continue to aide students in the classroom.

Students experiencing homelessness: 0%, TL-M does have money in the budget to provide for such students if we did have a student enroll that was homeless. We also have policies in place for these students.

Children and youth in foster care: We currently have one student enrolled in TL-M that is in foster care. We will continue to work with grandma to make sure the student has what he needs. He will continue to attend Title 1 after-school tutoring and summer school. We have policies in place for students in foster care.

Migratory students: 0%, currently TL-M does not have any migrant students enrolled. We do have policies in place for these students.

**Estimated Use of Funds Plan**

***Allowable Use of Funds***

Allowable Use of Funds	Estimated Expenditure Amount	Estimated Amount to address Learning Loss under this Use of Funds (20% of Budget Total MUST be spent on Learning Loss)
IDEA (Special Education)	\$52,125.30	\$52,125.30
Perkins (Career & Technical Education)	\$56,464.37	\$56,464.37
Budgetary shortfalls	\$117,905.33	\$0.00
Additional pay	\$6,020.00	\$6,020.00
	<b>\$232,515.00</b>	<b>\$114,609.67</b>

## Compliance with General Education Provisions Act Section 427

### *Compliance with General Education Provisions Act Section 427 (GEPA)*

**What barriers exist in your community that may prevent students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries from access or participation in the funded projects or activities listed in the application?\***

Turtle Lake - Mercer is a rural school in ND, teacher recruitment and retainment continues to be a barrier we face.

Turtle Lake - Mercer has a relatively high percentage of students on IEPs, for the last eight or more years we have been short-staffed in our special education department which has put a strain on the special education teacher/department because it is a large number of IEPs to manage and student minutes to provide for one teacher.

Close to 1/3 of our general fund budget comes from taxes within our school district. A large portion of TL-M tax payers are farmers and ranchers. Our communities are experiencing a drought this summer which will make increasing our taxes difficult for many of our farmers, ranchers, and other tax papers. Tax money is needed to fund the projects and activities for students and teachers in our school.

**What steps are being taken to address or overcome these barriers?\***

Our district will use ESSER III funds to hire additional special education teacher, add a FACS (Family and Consumer Science) program, provide additional pay/stipend, and pay for the principal's salary and benefits.

Because of our rural location in the state and teacher shortages, we are providing stipend to one of our elementary teachers (who has a special education minor) because we are moving her to special education. About 15% of TL-M's student population is on an IEP (this includes speech only IEPs), for a small district this is a rather large number. We have been able to get by with one special education teacher, but with additional funding we will be able to increase our FTEs in that area and provide better services to not only our students, but also better support to our classroom teachers. By adding an additional special education and increasing our FTE from 1 to 2, we will be decreasing the teacher's caseload and increasing the amount of time they will be able to work directly with students with disabilities. With additional funding we will be able to increase our FTEs in that area and provide better services to not only our students, but also better support to our classroom teachers. We will ensure that no student will be denied participation based on gender, race, national origin, disability or age.

FACS is a CTE program that our students and community have wanted for many years. Adding this program is an increase to the district's budget, not only to add the position, but also to prepare the room/space for FACS. Adding FACS will expand the curriculum opportunities and experiences for all students in grades 7 - 12 giving them skills and knowledge they need. We will ensure that no student will be denied participation based on gender, race, national origin, disability or age.

By using ESSER III funds to pay for the principal's salary and benefits it will lessen any budget shortfalls we anticipate due to COVID and other environmental hardships. Being able to use these funds for the principal will lessen the amount of taxes we need to levy from our local tax payers, while still being able to budget for the resources our students and teachers need to be able to learn and teach. We will ensure that no student will be denied participation based on gender, race, national origin, disability or age.