



ESSER III is a subset of the American Rescue Plan, which provides for \$122 Billion in funding to be distributed to schools. The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) is administered through the U.S. Department of Education and is intended to support efforts by states and school districts to safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools as well as address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students. Additionally, the funding is not contingent on schools masking students, promoting vaccinating, or other related topics, but does have several stipulations regarding how the funding can be utilized which generally center around addressing student learning loss and school health infrastructure projects like improved HVAC systems, air quality, etc.

Regarding how Bremen Public Schools is leveraging these funds, we have allocated funding to both student learning and improving the air quality of our building. Specifically:

We have allocated \$347,250 to address student learning loss leveraging a two-pronged approach. First, we have purchased updated software through Edmentum that will help our teachers K-8 address individual student learning needs. Secondly, from these funds, we have established an alternative school program for select middle school students to focus on preparing students for high school who have shown limited academic success. Leveraging the Edmentum software platform and a favorable student to teacher ratio (currently at 1 teacher to 12 students), students receive the individual attention necessary to help them reach their potential. Additionally, with the recent addition of our mental health therapists, these students are also provided support and guidance regarding emotional maturity, coping with stress, healthy social interactions, and a host of other topics.

To ensure that our staff members are properly trained to utilize the Edmentum software, \$20,000 has been allocated to pay for ongoing training and to compensate staff members for their participation.

Regarding addressing infrastructure, we have received permission to leverage \$591,355 to address many of the failing lintels within the elementary and middle school areas. As a reminder, a lintel is a type of support structure used to hold up building weight above openings like doors and windows. In the case of our building, which was constructed in the late 1930's, these lintels are made of rolled steel that has over the past 80 plus years has given way to rust. This decay has led to water infiltrating above many windows into our walls. This leads to the potential of mold growth which can negatively impact the quality of the building's air. We are fortunate to have this infusion of Federal money to address these issues without impacting local tax rates or prohibiting us from addressing other issues throughout our campus.