

## New Town Public School ESSER III Application

### 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** 07/14/2021 - 08/17/2021

**Initial Submit Date** Aug 11, 2021 9:39 AM

**Initially Submitted By** Beth Zietz

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**Last Submitted By** Beth Zietz

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### Contact Information

#### Primary Contact Information

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#### Organization Information

**Name:** New Town Public Schools - DPI

**Organization Type:** Public LEA

**Tax Id:** 2752

**Organization Website:** <http://www.newtown.k12.nd.us>

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**SAM.gov Entity ID:** KRH8VD9DY3U6

**SAM.gov Name:** New Town Public School District

**SAM.gov Entity ID Expiration Date:** 04/05/2022

## **ESSER III Application - Stakeholder Consultation**

### ***Stakeholder Consultation***

#### **Students**

New Town Public Schools will be using ESSER II funds in 2021-22 to address student needs and learning loss recovery. Our intent is to use ESSER III funding during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. Student input has been sought via an open meeting on Monday, May 17th, 2021. A free meal was offered to encourage attendance. Additionally, a survey regarding student needs outside of school hours was conducted; results indicated significant need for supportive services 4pm - 8am. Student input has also been relayed via our school counselors. Returning this fall, we will be conducting a much more in-depth survey of students in grades 5-12 regarding their ideas regarding the use of ESSER III funds.

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

New Town School district resides on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. Many of our students are enrolled members of Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara (MHA) Nation. Each month, a District Representative attends the MHA Education Committee Meeting. A report is given to the committee and discussion regarding Indian Education at New Town Public and other reservation schools occurs. In the fall a Native American Parent/Guardian input meeting is scheduled with the New Town School Board, providing another chance for input. The Director of MHA Indian Education is in regular contact with the school regarding educational needs of students. In August 2021 the district will participate in its annual Tribal Consultation meeting at which the use of ESSER III funds will be discussed.

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

We consult regularly with the MHA Education Committee and seek parent and student input. We also collaborate with Souris Valley Special Services (SVSS) out of Minot, ND on the needs of our students qualifying for special education services. SVSS also provides information regarding students on 504 plans. New Town public schools participates in the Office of Civil Rights Data Collection which helps us review our equity in services on a regular basis. We also participated in the North Dakota Department of Instruction Title IX training and will participate in future equity trainings as well.

#### **Superintendents**

We have one district superintendent who participates in North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders activities. At these activities, in addition to training on educational topics, she networks with other superintendents regarding what is working and what is not. The superintendent leads the administrative team and parent/guardian input meetings regarding ESSER funds. She consolidates information and presents to the School Board. The Board discusses the information and has directed the superintendent on how ESSER funds should be allocated.

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

Principals hold weekly meetings and have discussed ESSER funding with staff. On June 2, 2021, an all-staff survey was sent out regarding how the school should spend ESSER II and III funds. 114 staff responded to the survey. The union president was sent an email on May 4,

2021, requesting input from the union regarding ESSER funds. Input from staff will continue to be gathered through the 2021-22 school year.

**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**

The New Town School Districts works with several agencies to determine and address the needs of underserved populations. SVSS represents our special education students and those on 504 plans, the MHA Education Committee and Tribal Education Department provide information regarding Native American Students, our counselors and school-home liaisons provide input regarding students with mental health needs, foster care, homeless and EL students. Our staff is in tune with student needs and have been asked to give input on the needs of the underserved populations. Parents/guardians and underserved students have also been asked to provide feedback. A community meeting was held on May 17, 2021, at which a free supper was served to encourage attendance. ESSER funds were explained and input on the use of ESSER funds was collected. The District also has a Security Resource Officer (SRO) and maintains a good working relationship with the Youth Tribal System.

***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://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/1349133/Continuity\\_of\\_Services\\_Plan.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1349133/Continuity_of_Services_Plan.pdf)

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.

ESSER III dollars will be used to support the New Town School Districts Pandemic Response Team. Support will include stipends for team members. This team is responsible for reviewing and updating the Return to In-Person Instruction Plan at least every 6 months. ESSER III funds will be used to purchase supplies directly related to the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19. Supplies include, but are not limited to masks, test kits, cleaning supplies, medical supplies, signage and air-purification maintenance.

## **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.*

New Town School District will be using approximately 54% of our ESSER III funds for learning loss. Evidence-based materials will be coupled with evidence-based practices to provide strong intervention programs targeted at accelerating learning to recover learning lost or not gained during the CoVID-19 Pandemic School Closure. Programs include Success For All, Achieve 3000, Read 180, IXL Math, Aleks Math and other programs evaluated as evidence based. In addition to small class sizes, intervention teachers have been hired. They will be working with small groups and individual students to address learning gaps. Intervention sessions will occur during the school day and also outside of school hours. Ability grouping will be used in math and reading to target specific needs of learners.

Monitoring of interventions will be done with regular assessments, including but not limited to NWEA, SFA, and ASPIRE. These assessments will be used to determine student progress and direct instruction. ESSER funds will be used to purchase evidence-based growth assessments for use throughout the school year.

Students' mental health is key in addressing learning loss. ESSER III funds will be used for additional mental health staff and licensed telepsychiatry. The District will be working with ARRAY Behavioral Care and Decoteau Trauma-Informed Care & Practice, PLLC. ESSER II funds will be used in 2021-22 and ESSER III funds will be used in 2022-23 and 2023-2024 to continue these services.

## **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.*

New Town Public Schools is located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation. The vast majority of our students fall under the "disproportionately impacted" category. Our student population includes 88% Native American Students and 6% Hispanic students. Approximately 14% of our students are on IEPs and 42% of our students are low income. In 2019-20 21% of our students were considered "chronically absent." ESSER III funds will allow us to increase staff to better meet the needs of these students. There will be increased access to mental health and academic services.

Specifically, ESSER funds will be used to pay for evidence-based curriculum, intervention staff and mental health services. As data is collected regarding student response to these services, adjustments will be made each year to ensure the evidence-based methods being used are effective in our underserved populations.

The District addresses food insecurity by providing free breakfast and lunch. Food back packs are sent home over the weekend as well. Depending on other needs and funds available, ESSER III funds may be used to further address food insecurity by providing an evening meal.

## Estimated Use of Funds Plan

Allowable Use of Funds	Estimated Expenditure Amount	Estimated Amount to address Learning Loss)
Coordinate emergency response	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Mental health supports	\$1,156,630.00	\$1,156,630.00
Professional development	\$130,000.00	\$0.00
Educational Technology	\$970,000.00	\$0.00
High quality instructional materials and curricula	\$320,000.00	\$0.00
Purchase cleaning supplies	\$160,000.00	\$0.00
Additional pay	\$530,000.00	\$0.00
Supplemental learning	\$1,360,000.00	\$1,360,000.00
	<b>\$4,636,630.00</b>	<b>\$2,516,630.00</b>

## 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?*

Potential student barriers impacting access to, participation in or impact of programs include lack of stable home environment (including homelessness), food insecurity, attendance issues, transportation, peer pressure, connectivity issues, quarantine, illness, and mental issues. Cultural confusion and identity issues are also barriers for our students.

Teachers and staff are also impacted by mental health issues, problems outside of the work place and poor internet connectivity. There is both a housing and childcare shortage in New Town, which adds stress on our employees and can interfere with recruitment. New staff often have little or no experience in working with Native American Children and sometimes find our student population confusing to work with.

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

The district has taken and will expand mitigation efforts as student and staff needs emerge. Current, staff efforts supported with ESSER II and general fund dollars include implementation of The Village Business Institute's Employee Assistance Program (EAP), subsidized housing and childcare. We also support our staff by offering college credit book studies which focus on the history of the MHA Nation, Native American cultures, classroom management, poverty, etc. New staff all participate in an onboarding program which includes an introduction them to MHA culture.

Student supports include counseling services from ARRAY Behavioral Care Psychiatry for students grades 7-12, transportation to and from school, Verizon hotspots, individual electronic devices, free breakfast and lunch, food backpack program for weekends. We have school to home liaisons in place which assist with school/home communication and support of students needing assistance. The SRO and Youth Tribal Justice system work together with the school to address address attendance and child safety issues. New Town Schools maintains a culturally rich learning environment. We have numerous Indigenous displays and we are proud of our Native American Heritage. Students have the opportunity to take Arikara and Hidatsa language classes, Native studies and other culturally relevant courses. New Town Schools also maintains an Alternative Learning Center for students who do not succeed in the traditional classroom setting.

ESSER III dollars will fund expansion of our student mental health care services to include trauma-informed care and include grades K-12. Transportation services will be expanded to encompass after school intervention. Other uses being considered include evening meal program, support services outside of school hours and additional family outreach.