



COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

American Recovery Plan (ARP) / ESSER III District Plan

Definition: The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law March 11, 2021 by President Biden, and includes another round of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III), providing funds to States and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operations of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students.

Allocations: The Nebraska Department of Education will use the same funding methodology to calculate estimate Local Education Agency allocations based on 2020 LEA shares of Title I, Part A allocations. States will distribute 90% of allocated funds. School Districts must reserve 20% of their allocated funds to provide evidence-based interventions and activities toward student learning.

Priorities-Based Strategic Planning: Columbus Public Schools chose to consider the use of these one-time funds over multiple years using a strategic approach to align district priorities to the Nebraska Framework for Renewal and Acceleration, which outlines how a LEA will support their schools in meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of their students through the fall of 2024.

Allowable Use of ARP/ESSER III Funds: The comprehensive list and explanation can be found at <https://www.education.ne.gov/esser/esser-iii-arp/allowable-uses-of-funds-for-leas/>.

Columbus Public Schools:

- Formed an in-district committee to develop priorities for the use of funding.
- Held public comment at two school board meetings.
- Promoted the potential funding priorities through the local newspaper.
- Finalized the use of funds through a multi-year budgetary approach of sustainability and student impact.

Committee Members: Chip Kay, Dr. Troy Loeffelholz, Jason Harris, Dr. Amy Romshek, Leonard Kwapnioski, Nicole Anderson, Jason Schapmann, Val Wallin, Amy Haynes, Mindi Struebing, Tricia Romshek, Bob Hausmann, Mikki Wilcox, Paula Lawrence, and Austin Carmichael.

Timeline:

- March 2021 – District provided details on allowable use of funds
- September 2021 - District Plan is Submitted to NDE
- TBA – Plan approved by NDE
- TBA – Multi-year budget of funds is established
- TBA – Process established for the expense of funds and requesting reimbursement from the NDE

References for Research:

- [Hanover Research - Overcome Learning Loss](#)
- [Individualized Learning Using Acellus](#)
- [Christensen Institute - Learning Solutions](#)
- [NWEA White Paper on Covid19 Impact on Learning](#)

“Engaging All Learners to Achieve Success”

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ColumbusPublicSchools.org

DRAFT**Columbus Public Schools Draft Plan for ARP/ESSER III****DRAFT**

Overall Allocation: \$4,129,956

Budget Year 2021-2022 (\$2,075,000)

- Professional Development by building to support current High Reliability Schools benchmarks supporting instruction and assessment of diverse learners....\$75,000
- Purchase and/or upgrade instructional technology in classrooms....\$250,000
- Construction of a new Cassette House, Age 18-21 program facility on the High School Campus....\$300,000
- Phase I of HVAC upgrades to include fresh air handler, humidifier, and improved air quality in all District facilities. Air quality assessment, engineering, and planning....\$1,000,000
- Full-time attendance monitor, parent liaison, and family support advocate....\$45,000
- Protective supplies, materials, and other necessary student and staff safety items for mitigation of potential illness....\$25,000
- Health, wellness, and trauma care for students and staff....\$35,000
- Parent engagement strategies to assist students with loss of learning....\$10,000
- Digital resources and online support for student learning....\$125,000
- Digital devices for instructional support and student learning....\$210,000

Budget Year 2022-2023 (\$1,321,000)

- Professional Development by building to support current High Reliability Schools benchmarks supporting instruction and assessment of diverse learners....\$75,000
- Phase II of HVAC upgrades to include fresh air handler, humidifier, and improved air quality in all District facilities....\$1,000,000
- Full-time attendance monitor, parent liaison, and family support advocate....\$45,000
- Health, wellness, and trauma care for students and staff....\$35,000
- Cultural diversity training....\$8,000
- Digital resources and online support for student learning....\$125,000
- Teacher training on intervention programs....\$8,000
- Principal training on teacher support, evaluation, and growth....\$25,000

Budget Year 2023-2024 (\$733,956)

- Full-time attendance monitor, parent liaison, and family support advocate....\$45,000
- Cultural diversity training....\$8,000
- Teacher training on intervention programs....\$8,000
- Phase III of HVAC upgrades to include fresh air handler, humidifier, and improved air quality in all District facilities....\$500,000
- Health, wellness, and trauma care for students and staff....\$35,000
- Reassessment of District priorities for funds based on prior year(s) data of student needs for learning, social, emotional, or other designated support....\$137,956