

Neligh-Oakdale's ARP / ESSER Use of Funds Plan

The district has identified the following areas to use the Federal funds to aid in student achievement:

Area 10 – Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the Neligh-Oakdale Public School District that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.

Neligh-Oakdale Public School will purchase new laptop computers for our 7-12 grade students. We also are looking to purchase some interactive boards to enhance learning in the classroom. Finally, we are looking to purchase voice amplifying systems for our teachers that will allow all students to better hear and understand the dialogue in the classroom.

Area 12 – Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months addressing the needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.

Neligh-Oakdale Public School is looking to offer more extensive summer learning opportunities at all levels. Currently, this is only done at the Elementary level.

Area 13 – Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the Neligh-Oakdale Public School District, including by –

- (A) Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction.*
- (B) Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.*
- (C) Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment.*
- (D) Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.*

Neligh-Oakdale Public School intends to upgrade the curriculum and materials in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. Extensive professional development will be offered to staff to ensure the proper presentation of these materials as well.

Area 14 – School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.

Neligh-Oakdale Public School will be replacing several of the building's original windows.

The district sought stakeholder input on the use of funds through a variety of means. The district held meetings with three different student groups in the Spring of 2021 to ask their thoughts about the state of the school. Specifically, students were asked what areas they felt would be most beneficial for upgrades. The questions included the phrase, "if money were no object", so that students would be

encouraged to look at a broader scale. End of the year staff (Classified and Certified) meetings included discussion about the best ways to spend the funds. The Board of Education discussed at three different meetings about options for the funds and continue to assess the best ways to maximize the funding. Finally, at "Back to School" nights in August, parents of all students were made aware of the money available to the school and asked to complete a survey with their thoughts on how to best spend the money.

It has always been a high priority for the district to utilize in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. We have upgraded our HVAC system in the building to bring in more fresh air. We have invested in better products to sanitize our buildings and have put an emphasis on sanitizing "high touch" surfaces, etc. We believe that replacing windows is another step in the right direction to improve air circulation and limit the spread of the virus.

Our school district is looking to upgrade its curriculum in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. This will be done through an extensive process to find evidence-based learning opportunities for our students. Upon the completion of these processes, new materials will be purchased along with the Professional Development necessary for our staff to execute the teaching/learning process correctly. We are committed to finding materials that will benefit all students, especially those who have been marginalized. We will purchase all Professional Development that accompanies these materials so that each teacher has the tools necessary to teach these evidence-based curriculums with fidelity and to be excellent teachers to all students. We are also looking into the best ways that we can continue to engage many of our students in the summer time to make up for learning loss that occurred early in the pandemic.

We are hopeful that the new curriculum and resources will include several online and remote learning options. Our staff currently uses Canvas and has been filming themselves teach for absent students. We are hopeful that their video lectures combined with the new resources will support all students. A major focus will be placed on reading and writing as well as rigor. Our staff will utilize the Nebraska Essential Instructional Content for 2020-2021: ELA/Literacy and Mathematics, as a guide to identify material most important for students that have missed time and help accelerate their "catch up" by focusing on these main themes.

Through their extensive review, we are counting on the materials to offer unbiased education to all students. The High-quality instructional materials (HQIMs) we are looking to purchase will create coherence, offer consistency across all learning environments, and support student voice and social-emotional health. Providing a structure of coherent, consistent instructional materials and content will be of great importance for teachers and students alike. We plan to purchase high quality instructional materials that will reflect students' cultures, languages, and lived experiences and help them build deep content knowledge.