

Brasher Falls Central School District

ARP: Use of Funds

2021-2024

The LEA had engaged with a diverse group of stakeholders by sharing a survey document containing questions aligned with evidence based programs, skills, strategies, and supports that would address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students. This tool was posted to the district website as well as emailed to the community. Then, the results were reviewed by the shared decision-making team meeting/reorganization committee.

This survey tool sought to garner shareholder feedback with regard to student services as guided by shareholder knowledge of the struggles experienced during the pandemic. The results of the questionnaire were then reviewed by a team of stakeholders to guide the allocation of ARP monies to best support:

- safely returning students to in-person instruction;
- maximizing in-person instruction time;
- operating schools and meeting the needs of students;
- purchasing educational technology;
- addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, including the impacts of interrupted instruction and learning loss and the impacts on low income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness;
- implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs;
- offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; and
- supporting early childhood education.

The funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning:

- Nurse stipends for contact tracing outside of contract hours
- Refillable Water Bottle Stations
- Have PPE (masks and antibacterial wipes) available to support the community and keep the people in the building safe
- Update the nurse station equipment to satisfy the needs of the pandemic
- Increase cafeteria seating and tables to be able to provide spacing that is safe and respects CDC guidance

- Add instructional space to afford flexibility in accordance with CDC guidance by way of adding collaborative desks and chairs to prepare appropriate spacing
- Additional maintenance staffing to keep up with the demands of the CDC guidelines
- Promote air circulation to afford wellness in the work environment for staff and students
- Updated equipment connected to heating and cooling air quality

The LEA will use the 20% required funds to:

- Implement elementary and middle school summer enrichment programs
 - Sports camps
- A more robust wifi offering including bus wifi for long trips to and from school for a large population in the district to support students affected by the digital divide
- Incorporate extra counseling and lessons by the counselor to build student and teacher awareness of the SEL components through a home to school counselor
- Provide professional development in
 - Best reading and writing practices including phonics through the Units of Study and Wilson Training to support benchmarking data results and individualized instruction
 - Best ways to teach math skills and strategies
- Additional staffing in each grade level to reduce class size to give more individualized attention and provide evidence-based interventions to small groups
- Field trips connected to curriculum to enrich learning connected to the curriculum and local culture
- Provide supplies to special subject areas
 - Instruments and outfits for music
 - Supplies for Art
- Robotics materials

The LEA will use their multi-tiered student support system to collect data using:

- Classroom evaluations
- Data collected from the district designated benchmarking tool
- Progress monitoring feedback from conferencing with students
- Formative assessments
- Attendance records
- Parent meetings
- SEL survey feedback
- Climate survey

These tools will collectively build a student profile to see what areas need support and where that support should come from.

The LEA will use the remaining funds to:

- Leadership coaching for administrative staff
- Back to school night: supplies and necessities for the upcoming school year
- Data security/privacy
- PLC's - Family/Community events: collaborative games and activities

The LEA will ensure that the interventions are implemented:

- Budget review by the Title 1 Supervisor, Superintendent, and Business Officer
- Principal observation
- Collaboration with the Instructional coach
- Classroom visits
- Data chats connected to Data Driven Instruction
- MTSS (Multi-Tiered Student Support Team) periodic reviews of each student
- Meetings with the counselors
- Attendance records
- Climate survey
- Student/parent/teacher feedback
- Faculty and PLC meetings

Every six months or earlier if necessary the LEA will update its reopening plan by:

- Review updated CDC guidelines
- Meeting with the BOCES communication officer to update the plan
- Collaborate with other local districts within the consortium/county to have a streamlined approach
- Meeting with a reorganization committee in the district to review the plan and adjust the plan as needed
- Public comments will be reviewed with the safety committee quarterly to implement any changes necessary to support the needs of the community within the guidelines of the plans.