

HARLAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ARP ESSER PLAN

The Harlan Independent School District was awarded and has accepted American Relief Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds (ARP ESSER) from the federal government. These funds are intended to prepare for, respond to and overcome obstacles presented by the global COVID 19 pandemic.

Consultation: Community members which included students, parents, educators (union members and non-union members), community organizations, and others were all invited and given the opportunity to provide input as to how ARP ESSER funds can best be spent to meet district needs in alignment with the goals of the ARP ESSER program. Additionally, the District Leadership team which consists of representative district and school level administrators such as principals, guidance counselors, directors, program coordinators and FRYSC personnel met bi-weekly and were given the opportunity to provide input as to how ARP ESSER funds can best be spent to meet district needs in alignment with the goals of the ARP ESSER program. Data and information from these meetings/work sessions was collected and used to help formulate a needs assessment and ultimately used to drive the development of the district plan. The local Board of Education was also involved in the development and approval of ESSER spending plans with updates given at board meetings on June 19th, 2021 and July 22nd, 2021.

Suggestions that fell outside the scope of the ARP ESSER spending guidelines which arose in the course of the forum were also discussed as possible options for the use of other revenue sources. Our future consultation plans include update meetings which will be conducted in conjunction with other federal program meetings to regularly analyze the use of ARP ESSER funds and to implement budget adjustments if necessary. The district principals along with the district team will meet each month to review the ARP ESSER goals and in turn report to the Superintendent who will update the Harlan Independent Board of Education on the progress of the ARP ESSER plan.

Administrative meetings continue to take place bi-weekly to evaluate and implement efforts to address the needs of students, staff, and the community at large. Additionally, updates and consultation is provided to the Board of Education during monthly meetings that occur on the third Thursday of each month. Finance staff routinely review expenditures and consult with both regional and statewide educational cooperative initiatives on the expenditure and allocation of ARP ESSER funds.

Prevention and Mitigation Strategies: In order to prepare for future outbreaks, sanitation equipment and supplies will be purchased with ARP ESSER funds. These include but are not limited to disinfectant fogging machines at each school, scrubbers and buffers, hand sanitizer, masks and an increased emphasis on cleaning surfaces as well as the air quality at each individual schools. Upgrades to HVAC equipment at all schools will assist in making the air cleaner and safer. Furniture will be purchased as needed to replace group tables to allow for social distancing by utilizing individual student desks that can be arranged to maximize instructional spaces. In addition to physical items purchased, the staff has been trained on the necessary precautions required to prevent the spread of disease and are being required to do daily inspections and cleanings that were not in place prior to the pandemic.

Training and equipment will be purchased to assist in new instructional strategies and technologies targeting recovery of student learning loss across the district.

Academic impact of lost instructional time: Although the Harlan Independent School District has made every effort to continue quality instruction during school closure, learning loss has occurred. ARP ESSER funds will be spent to continue the on-line learning options for those students who still cannot or are not comfortable in returning to in-person instruction. Virtual instruction will be enhanced through upgrades to our wireless access/internet services and the continuation of one to one devices which will be utilized by the students both at home and at school. Summer Learning opportunities which were put in place during the summer of 2021 to address learning loss will be sustained and enhanced for future years through the use of ARP ESSER funds. Summer learning programs target all students who is in need of catch-up services and/or remediation services as well as provide engaging enrichment activities. Transportation will be provided for summer as well as food services. Summer instructional programs funded through ARP ESSER funds will provide greatly reduced teacher to student ratios which promote expanded one on one and small group instruction for our students.

Because the vast majority of our students live in homes with a low socio-economic status, implementation of research based strategies and interventions to meet the needs of low-socioeconomic students will be implemented. Additional highly qualified staff will be utilized to help address the needs of student learning loss. Existing programs will be utilized, including but not limited to Renaissance Learning Suite, MAP, Symphony Math, Lexia, and MobyMax. At the 9-12 level, teachers will be provided continued professional learning utilizing KAGAN Strategies. Materials for support will also be purchased. This will allow for teachers to be trained in using teaching strategies to address all learning styles and needs as well as students' social and emotional health.

Academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of all students: The Harlan Independent School district realizes that students need academic support as well as social, emotional, and mental health support to address various issues caused by the pandemic and prolonged school closures. By implementing our plan to have individualized instruction at all grade levels, we anticipate that social, emotional, and mental health needs will be reduced. Having systems in place to close the gap for students who require intense remediation and developing relationships and connections with students as related to their academic needs positively impacts the school experience for students. ARP ESSER funds will be used to provide both certified and classified staff with supplemental service pay for extra time and effort they will spend during the coming school year addressing academic, social, emotional, and metal health issues that arise with the students they service.

A comprehensive expansion and refresh of textbook and instructional resources will be provided across all grade levels throughout the district.

ARP ESSER funds will be used to continue salaries for all district counselors and instructional supervisors in order to provide support for all students and teachers. Counselors will implement the use of a social and emotional curriculum to address social and emotional health issues related to the pandemic. Instructional supervisors will provide support to teachers in addressing learning loss and remediation. Through ongoing partnerships with related providers the district will implement Terrace Metrics to students across the district in an effort to provide assessment information related to the mental health of our students.

Other use of funds: It is the philosophy of the Harlan Independent School District and school community at large that all remaining funds should be utilized to impact student learning loss and student/staff safety to the

greatest extent possible. Possible other uses of funds will be considered to upgrade and repair our facilities for future years in order to provide a safe and comfortable learning environment for all students and staff. The surplus of funds will also enable the continued employment of specialty services to support the needs of students.

Additionally, Instructional technology will also be upgraded as needed. Interactive devices will be purchased for all classrooms. Interactive panels enhance communication between teachers and students and encourage collaboration amongst classmates. Student devices will also be refreshed and upgraded to assist with remote learning and to strengthen our communication with students and families.

It is the goal of the Harlan Independent Schools to best utilize every dollar for the enrichment and continued education of our students both present and future. Numerous planning meetings have been conducted to allow for all stakeholders to have input regarding the best use of ARP ESSER funding. All students in the Harlan Independent School district are considered high poverty and funding will be equally divided for the benefit of all students. This plan may be revised with community consultation at any time during the course of the ARP ESSER financial funding period.

Research Citations to Support ARP ESSER Budget Proposal

Edgenuity-

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Vaughn, S., Wanzek, J., Murray, C. S., Roberts, G. (2012). Intensive interventions for students struggling in reading and mathematics: A practice guide. Portsmouth, NH: RMC Research Corporation, Center on Instruction

<https://www.readingrockets.org/sites/default/files/Intensive%20Interventions%20for%20Students%20Struggling%20in%20Reading%20&%20Math.pdf>