

ARP - LEA American Rescue Plan ESSER III - Proposed Plan for Tolono CUSD 7

Unit Seven Schools reopened all schools on an abbreviated day for in-person instruction in SY 21 and fully opened with in-person instruction for SY 22 and 23. Initial plans for reopening were approved by the Champaign-Urbana Public Health Department and included such factors as masking, social distancing, contact tracing and working with students in cohorts to limit exposure to COVID-19. The District served as a vaccination site for students and the community in summer of 2021. School nurses stayed apprised of CDC and health department guidance during the pandemic and served as liaisons for the District with Champaign-Urbana Health Department. Funding was used to improve air quality and circulation in classrooms, offices, cafeterias and other gathering spaces in school facilities through the purchase of air purification systems and air filtering that met CDC guidance. Funds were also used to replace inefficient window ventilation at Unity High School. Window replacement for outdated, inefficient windows was among the recommendations on the CDC website for a healthy return to school environment. Additional items such as tables and desks for social distancing, personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies and acrylic barriers were purchased in accordance with CDC guidelines for reopening. The District invested in a one-to-one device initiative to allow for safe in person learning and to support students who were absent due to required quarantines, due to illnesses, and due to shortened in-person schedules. New hire faculty positions were filled which allowed for a successful student-to-teacher ratio when working to limit the number of students per classroom.

Unit Seven Schools used funding to address learning loss by ensuring that students in grades K-8 had access to academic interventionists. Students in need of academic intervention were determined through the recommendations of RtI/MTSS teams who met regularly to problem solve on behalf of students. In addition to academic data, teams considered the needs of students who were most impacted due to shut downs, abbreviated school days, quarantines, remote learning, illnesses and social isolation due to the impact of COVID-19. Funding was used to retain school counselors, who bridged and responded to the academic and social emotional needs of students most impacted by COVID-19 in grades 9-12.

SEA set aside for Learning Loss were supported through the purchase of additional social work and psychological services from Champaign County School Rural Special Education Cooperative to serve the increased needs of special education students who were greatly impacted as a group and as individuals. A jump start summer school program was offered before the start of SY 2023 with a focus on academic and literacy skills. Students were identified through the problem solving process as those most in need of intervention as a result of shutdowns, truncated intervention due to shortened days, required quarantines, illness, and social isolation. Funds were used to support teacher and administrative salaries and benefits for the summer program, teaching supplies, and transportation.

SEA Summer Enrichment for SY22 and 23 focused on opening school libraries at both elementary buildings in the District. Students on each side of the District were able to visit the library, check out books ,take AR tests to maintain or improve their reading skills, and maintain

positive contact with building staff in a time of social isolation. Funds were used for salaries and benefits for two media specialist aides to implement the library program and for the purchase of summer Accelerated Reading programs for both Unity East and Unity West.

SEA After School for SY22 and 23 focused on supporting the socialization, emotional and creative needs of elementary students through art. Experiences included creating 3-D paper ornaments, watercolor canvases, clay vessels with the small potter's wheels, paper weaving, mini canvases with easels, and sidewalk chalk drawings. Funding was used to support the salary and benefits of the art teacher for planning, supervision, and implementation of after school art programs at both Unity East and Unity West. Funds were also used to purchase art supplies and materials for the program.

Remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act will be used to continue funding in 2024 for programs begun in 2022 as described in the above narrative. Programs that will be included are Learning Loss - Summer Jumpstart Program, After School Elementary Art, Summer Enrichment - Summer Library with Accelerated Reader programs,

Unit Seven Schools will ensure that the interventions used will meet the needs of students most impacted by COVID-19, with a priority for disproportionate groups as identified in ARP ESSER section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act. The District will continue to focus on early intervention in the area of academic learning loss, afterschool, and summer enrichment programming for elementary students. Additionally, Unit Seven Schools will continue utilizing RtI/MTSS problem solving teams at all buildings for identification of students most impacted due to the impact of COVID-19, and informing our school community and taking community feedback through Use of Funds and Back to School presentations and updates to the Unit Seven Board of Education and by making plans and funds use accessible on the district website.

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Per ISBE, each school district that receives ESSER III funds must develop a plan for its use of funds and submit it to ISBE within 90 days of funds being received. School districts must provide the public opportunity to provide input on the plan, take such input into account, and post the ESSER plan on its website. The following is Unit Seven Schools' proposed plan for use of funds. The plan is available for public comment and will be presented as an action item at the October 20, 2021 Board of Education Meeting.

Learning Loss (minimum 20% learning loss reserve)

Retention of K-8 interventionist and high school counselors

Salary	\$269,868
Benefits	<u>+\$103,499</u>
	\$373,367

Use of Funds

Technology	\$ 68,706 (Ipads, networking, AppleCare, DocuSign)
Improving facilities	\$314,618 (Ventilation-Healthy Windows Project HS gym)

Health & Safety	\$ 40,642 (EZ bottle fillers, mobile benches UE/UW, Testing)
Improve Air Quality	\$106,698 (Portable air filters, rapid recovery air purifiers)
New Hires	<u>+\$512,093</u> (Salary and benefits Elem, HS, JH teachers)
	\$1,042,757

Required Set Asides (5% learning loss, 1% summer enrichment, 1% after-school)

Learning Loss	\$ 34,199 (K-5 Summer Jumpstart 2021-22)
	<u>+\$ 50,649</u> (RCCSEC social work/psychology services)
	\$ 84,848

Summer Enrichment	\$ 16,970 (Library East & West summer Hrs., AR Program)
Summer 2022, 2023, and 2024	

After School	\$ 16,970 (Unity East & Unity West After School Art)
January 2021, SY23, SY24	

Total ESSER III Funds:	\$1,534,912
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Unit Seven Schools has a tradition of commitment to early intervention for students. This commitment continues with the recognition of learning loss to students as result of shutdown, quarantines, illness, and shortened school schedules related to COVID19 that began in March of 2020 and have continued to impact the learning needs of students. Remaining available funds will be reallocated to fund a K-5 Elementary Summer Jumpstart for 2022-2023 before the start of SY 2024 school year.

Remaining:

Use of Funds

Health and Safety	\$10,958 (unused supplies and testing supplies)
Entire amount reallocated to salary, benefits, and supplies for 2022-2023 Summer Jump Start	

Required Set Asides (5% learning loss, 1% summer enrichment, 1% after-school)

Learning Loss	\$14,306 (unused salary, benefits and transportation funds)
Entire amount reallocated to salary, benefits and transportation for 2022-2023 Summer Jump Start	

Total reallocation to Summer K-5 Jump Start: \$25,264

The below set asides will continue in keeping with the original plan:

Summer Enrichment	\$ 16,970 (Library East & West summer Hrs., AR Program)
Summer 2022, 2023, and 2024	

After School	\$ 16,970 (Unity East & Unity West After School Art)
January 2022, SY23, SY24	

Updated June 21, 2023

