

August 5, 2021 – Cook County School District ESSER Spending Plan

Cook County School District is committed to reopening its school in observance of county, state and federal guidance regarding safe opening of schools. The ARP ESSER plan is presented on behalf of the Cook County School District Reopening Committee in collaboration with representative of central office administration. The ARP ESSER Funds Use Plan addresses the academic and socio-emotional impact of students and families disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent interruptions in school. The plan addresses the district's goals of providing appropriate academic and socio-emotional learning supports while providing a safe and secure environment that protects students and families from exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

Implementation of Prevention and Mitigation Strategies and Interventions

The district will designate a portion of available ESSER funding to support the mitigation and prevention of exposure to the COVID-19 virus. The plan will address a variety of capital projects to meet this objective. HVAC upgrades will be conducted at the Walsh Elementary School site and repairs and upgrades to the boiler at the Graves/Heritage Middle School site will be made to improve air quality and circulation at that site. Additional instructional space will be created as per local, state and federal safety specifications at the Walker Elementary School, Wharton 5th Grade Center and Graves/Heritage Middle School sites. A back up generator will be installed at the Graves/Heritage Middle School site, the main hub for the district's network infrastructure, to ensure continuity of access to remote instruction during anticipated periods of school closure. Finally, funds will be used to hire an additional custodial staff member and to purchase PPE to support sanitation and cleaning across the district.

*See exhibit A for detailed budget of projects to address prevention and mitigation strategies and interventions.

Addressing Student Learning Loss

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been felt specifically in the area of student learning. The ESSER fund plan addresses this area in a variety of ways. As required the district will designate a portion of ESSER funds to support students in after-school and summer learning opportunities to address learning loss related to the pandemic. Additionally, funds will be used to hire and retain instructional staff in each building. All 5 schools will retain an additional instructional interventionist to support students identified as in need of additional instruction support in the areas of reading and mathematics. Staff contracts will be extended through June 30, 2024. Additional 3rd and 4th grade teachers will be hired at the Walsh Elementary site will be hired to address class size and identified student needs. A physical education teacher will be hired to address the health and wellness of students returning from quarantine and remote learning. 7 paraprofessionals will be hired to support students across the district. A consulting firm will be hired to conduct an equity audit of district curriculum, assessment, discipline and hiring practices to ensure that the district is equitably addressing the needs of its community. The equity audit will address operational functions, curriculum and instruction, socio-emotional and wellness areas. Finally, funds will be designated to purchase digital curriculum products, Chromebooks, and material resources for student use in light of identified instructional needs related to learning loss suffered as a result of the pandemic.

*See exhibit B for detailed budget of expenditures addressing student learning loss.

COOK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 104 – ARP ESSER FUNDS USE PLAN

Evaluation of Interventions

The district will evaluate the impact of projects and programs funded by ARP ESSER funds on an annual basis. The basis for this internal evaluation will be the analysis of student learning (benchmark, local and classroom level assessments and metrics) and student socio-emotional health and wellness (survey data for student and families), analysis of class size and social distancing within each building, periodic review of air quality and functioning of HVAC and heating systems and execution of an action plan related to the findings of the Equity Audit.

Exhibit A – Funds Use for Prevention and Mitigation Strategies	
Expenditure	Amount
HVAC Upgrade (Walsh)	\$179,821
Boiler Repair/Upgrade (Graves/HMS)	\$785,600
Office Reconfiguration (Walker)	\$1,200,000
Office Reconfiguration (Wharton)	\$620,000
Band Room Divider (Graves/HMS)	\$17,500
Back Up Generator Installation (Graves/HMS)	\$543,976
Floating Custodian Salary (District)	\$45,000
Floating Custodian Benefits (District)	\$10,000
Purchase of PPE (District)	\$15,000
Total	\$3,416,897

Exhibit B – Funds Use for Learning Loss	
Expenditure	Amount
After-School Programming (District)	\$36,649
Summer School Programming (District)	\$36,649
Instructional Interventionist Salaries (District)	\$280,000
Instructional Interventionist Benefits (District)	\$100,000
3 rd and 4 th Grade Teacher Salaries (Walsh)	\$250,000
3 rd and 4 th Grade Teacher Benefits (Walsh)	\$112,000
Physical Education Teacher Salary (Heritage)	\$60,000
Part-Time Physical Education Teacher Salary (Graves)	\$30,000
Physical Education Benefits (Heritage)	\$20,000
Paraprofessional Salaries (District)	\$420,000
Paraprofessional Benefits (District)	\$180,000
Digital Curriculum (District)	\$83,243
Instructional Materials (District)	\$71,480
Chromebooks (District)	\$120,000
Equity Plan	\$25,000
Total	\$1,825,021