

Illini Central CUSD#189
Use of ESSER III Funds Plan

PLANNING PROCESS:

Illini Central Schools is eligible for \$1,667,262 of ESSER III funds for use to combat the pandemic. At least 20% of those funds must be used to directly address learning loss. The remaining funds can be used to address issues related to the pandemic.

Beginning in the July of 2021, Illini Central convened a planning team to research ways to utilize the ESSER III funds.

The committee used ISBE's 12 Priority Topic Areas to guide its research. Those areas are listed below:

1. Support enrollment, retention, and reengagement initiatives to ensure academic progression across P-20 spectrum
2. Build individualized student fact base with academic and behavioral diagnostics and progress monitoring
3. Reimagine school calendar and expand school day/year
4. Provide out-of-classroom learning experiences through tutoring, after school, summer camps, etc.
5. Connect districts/institutions with community organizations that connect students to comprehensive support
6. Enhance accessibility of academic & behavioral counseling resources, especially for at-risk students (including year-round support)
7. Invest in infrastructure for mental wellness and trauma-informed, culturally responsive schools, including educator P.D. and support
8. Evaluate and improve hybrid/remote learning models to develop long-term digital strategic priorities
9. Improve quality of learning through altered classroom structures, educator professional development, and digital tools
10. Increase flexibility of secondary, post-secondary environment to accommodate for other responsibilities
11. Support students with structured engagement and enhanced communications in transition periods
12. Design an integrated education/workforce strategy and playbook and offer work-driven credit opportunities

STAKEHOLDERS:

Stakeholders who were engaged included district level administrators, building principals, teachers, and community members. The following are the names of those individuals:

Superintendent Mike Ward

Jennifer Durbin ICHS/ICMS principal

Kris Kloba, ICHS/ICMS assistant principal

Michelle Hellman, ICGS principal

Lori Avart, IC Special Education Coordinator

Teachers:

Amy Gronewald

Ashley Tucker

Kara Cooley

Kristi Johnson

Board of Education Members:

May Brooks

Jay Douglas

Community Members

Lori Worner

Karen Miller

Joel Peterson

In addition, the planning team consulted the Consolidate District Plan to determine if needs detailed in that document would apply here.

The district held three meetings to make the final list of recommendations. The list was discussed at two Board of Education meetings prior to the Board's official approval.

In addition, the district engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders who had an interest in students with disabilities, those representing students who come from low income households and those experiencing homelessness. The district does not serve tribes, migratory students, or students who are incarcerated.

The District continues to monitor the plan and reviews the materials every six months. The public is invited to attend any Board of Education meeting to share input or to question the list as it is composed. The plan is available via the district website.

USE OF FUNDS ACTIVITIES:

Addressing Learning Loss/Interventions to respond to social, emotional, mental health and academic needs.

The district will use ESSER III funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time in the following manner:

1. Summer School Program: The district will offer a 96-hour summer school program for students Pre-K through 12 who fail to make adequate progress during the school year.

This program will include the use of classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, and online learning with the aim of closing learning gaps, bolstering basic academic skills, and credit recovery.

2. After School Tutoring: In an effort to address lost instructional time as well as to provide interventions to respond to social, emotional and academic needs of students, the district will implement an after school tutoring program. The program will run multiple days per week (3 to 5 hours in total). The program will be staffed by classroom teachers and paraprofessionals to address both daily homework support as well as loss of learning and skill deterioration that was caused by the pandemic.

3. Intervention materials: The district will use ESSER funds to purchase intervention materials that will allow trained staff to work with students to close learning gaps.

Implementation of Prevention and Mitigation Strategies/CDC Guidance

The district intends to use ESSER III funds for the purpose of implementing prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with CDC guidance in response to the pandemic.

1. **Building Addition:** The district intends to construct 4 classrooms and a multi-purpose room to support reduced class sizes and observe social distancing. We currently have classrooms subdivided with partitions, yet we still cannot meet social distancing requirements. We are using two modular buildings that are past their life expectancy to house students and staff. Our cafeteria is not large enough to feed our students while maintaining social distancing requirements. We use our one gymnasium to handle to overflow. This displaces physical education classes. We have used every available space and we still cannot follow the social distancing regulations. This project would allow us to meet requirements caused by a pandemic. All procurement procedures will be followed.
2. **Architectural Fees for Development, Design and Bid of Building Addition:** The district intends to use ESSER III funds for architectural services necessary to construct 4 classrooms a multi-purpose room to support reduced class sizes and observe social distancing. We currently have classrooms subdivided with partitions. We use two modular buildings that are past their life expectancy to house students and staff. Our cafeteria is not large enough to feed our students while maintaining social distancing requirements. We use our one gymnasium to handle to overflow. We have used every available space & cannot follow the social distancing regulations. This project would allow us to meet requirements caused by a pandemic.

Use of Remaining Funds:

The district will use remaining funds in the following manner:

1. **Chromebook Purchase:** The pandemic has emphasized the importance of 1:1 computing and remote learning. The district will use ESSERIII funds to purchase Chromebooks for students. This will increase technology access for low income students and will replace devices that are three to four years old.
2. **Stipends for Staff:** The district will use ESSER III funds to provide stipends for staff to compensate for extra duties that are required during the pandemic that exceed the typical job description.

USE OF FUNDS PROPOSAL BY THE NUMBERS:

The following table illustrates the planned use of funds by Illini Central CUSD189

Project	Fiscal Year	Cost	20% Requirement?
Summer School	FY 22	\$77,100	Yes
Future Summer School	FY22 and FY24	\$100,000	Yes
After School Tutoring	FY22, 23, and 24	\$50,000	Yes
Chromebook Purchase	FY24	\$180,000	Yes
Intervention Tools	FY22, 23	\$15,000	Yes
Building Addition	FY24	\$1,150,162	No
COVID Stipend	FY22,23	\$125,000	No
Total		\$1,697,262	
20% Target	\$339,452	\$422,100	