



Cherokee Independent School District

"Striving to make the best better."

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ESSER III Use of Funds Plan

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

Introduction

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act statute requires that LEAs develop and make publicly available their plans for the use of funds after having engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders. This plan must be reviewed and revised every six months. A summary of Cherokee ISD's plans for ESSER III funding, aligned to four required components, is below.

Public Comment & Stakeholder Input

This plan was developed in consultation with stakeholders after soliciting public comment via electronic survey, public board meeting, Site Based Decision Making Meeting, staff meetings, small student groups including NHS and FFA officers.

Effective Date & Publication of Plan

The plan was written on June 1, 2021 and posted to the LEA website <https://www.cherokeeisd.net/browse/217818>. Should revisions to the plan become necessary, the plan will be updated and a revised version posted on the website.

Required Components of Use of Funds Plan

Statute requires that LEAs describe its use of funds according to four components:

1. Prevention and mitigation strategies consistent to the latest CDC guidance on reopening schools in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. (LEAs are not required to use ESSER III funds for this activity.)
2. How LEA will use funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year
3. How LEA will spend its remaining funds to meet the intent and purpose of ESSER III
4. How LEA will ensure the interventions address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by COVID19, including students from low-income

families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

Plan for Funding to Address Impact on Learning

Statute requires a minimum of 20% of ESSER III funding to be directed toward activities that address learning loss. This requirement is separated among two components:

- **Component #2:** Evidence-based interventions; and
- **Component #4:** Interventions that ensure the social, emotional, mental health needs of students are met

Total Entitlement: <u>\$582,359.00</u>	20% of Entitlement Amount: <u>\$116,472</u> (minimum allowed)
Initial 2/3 Amount: <u>\$388, 114.00</u>	Final 1/3 Amount: <u>\$194,057.00</u>
Amount Directed Toward Learning Loss: \$ <u>\$120,500.00</u>	

Component #2: Evidence-based Interventions

Cherokee ISD will address learning loss through the following activities:

- Payroll for teachers to conduct summer learning, after school tutorials and Friday tutorials
- Purchase supplemental resources to be used during summer learning, after school tutorials and Friday tutorials
- Purchase student devices and interactive boards for classrooms
- Purchase teacher devices and CTE computers for engineering courses
- Hire paraprofessional to support learning loss

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years 2020-2021 school year

- Pre-award - reimburse LEA for activities conducted in the 2021 summer
- 2021-2022 school year
- 2022-2023 school year

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities aligned with ESEA• Activities aligned with IDEA• Activities aligned with Adult Education & Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)• Activities aligned with Perkins CTE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchase educational technology to aid educational interaction (students/teachers)• Plan/implement summer learning & after-school programs• Address learning loss (assessments; comprehensive needs of students; PFE support; tracking remote attendance/engagement) |
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Component #4: Interventions Addressing Academic, Social, Emotional Needs of Students

Cherokee ISD will provide interventions responding academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, in particular underserved groups*, through the following activities:

- Purchase and implement SEL Program
- Hire part-time counselor to support student mental health needs

**Underserved groups: low-income students; students of color; English learners; students with disabilities; students experiencing homelessness; children in foster care; migratory students*

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years

- 2021-2022 school year
- 2022-2023 school year
- 2023-2024 school year (as carryover)

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Address student needs: low-income, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth• Purchase educational technology to aid educational interaction (students/teachers) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide mental health services and supports (incl. implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools & hiring counselors)• Address learning loss (assessments; comprehensive needs of students; PFE support; tracking remote attendance/engagement) |
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Plan for Other Needs

Statute requires that the remaining funds be ($\leq 80\%$ of ESSER III entitlement) be spent on other needs aligned with the intent and purpose of ESSER III. This requirement is separated among two components:

- **Component #1:** Prevention and Mitigation Strategies (optional use of ESSER III); and
- **Component #3:** Remaining use of ESSER funds aligned to safely reopening and sustaining the safe operation of schools and addressing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students

Total Entitlement: \$ <u>582,359.00</u>	20% of the Entitlement Amount: \$ <u>116,472</u> (maximum allowed)
Initial 2/3 Amount: \$ <u>388, 114.00</u>	Final 1/3 Amount: \$ <u>194,057.00</u>

Component #1: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

Cherokee ISD will provide prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with CDC guidance (to the greatest extent possible) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning.

Cherokee ISD is supporting these strategies through ESSER III funding and will include the following:

- Purchase of outdoor tables for meal service to allow for social distancing
- Remodeling of vacant classrooms to provide more space for larger classes and CTE labs to social distance
- Purchase of science lab tables to allow for social distancing
- Water filling stations to replace water fountains
- Replace HVAC and filter systems to improve air quality

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years:

- Pre-award - reimburse LEA for activities conducted in the 2021 summer
- 2021-2022 school year
- 2022-2023 school year
- 2023-2024 school year (as carryover)

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategies/Protocols aligned to CDC guidance (reopening/operating)• Coordinating to prevent, prepare for, respond to COVID19• PD: sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean• Develop & implement procedures and systems to improve preparedness & response efforts of LEAs |
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Component #3: Remaining Use of Funds

Cherokee ISD will use the remaining funds to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students. The following activities are planned:

- Staff Retention Stipend to all employees to encourage staff to continue working in the field of education

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years:

- 2021-2022 school year

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

- Repairing & improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus/exposure to health hazards
- Improving indoor air quality
- Develop & implement procedures and systems to improve preparedness & response efforts of LEAs
- Plan/implement activities during long-term closures, (meals to eligible students; provide technology for online learning; guidance for IDEA requirements; ensure other ed. services continue per federal, state, local requirements)
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of services, including continuing to employ existing or hiring new LEA and school staff