

Southern Public Schools

ARP ESSER III Plan

2021-2022



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Section I: ARP ESSER III Plan

General Information (Pursuant to the Federal American Rescue Plan)

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law. The ARP Act includes nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund that allows state and local education agencies (LEAs) to take additional steps for continued safe in-person instruction and to address unfinished teaching and learning to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic. An LEA awarded ESSER III funds agrees to develop a plan to ensure transparency and accountability for use of the funds to address their students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs, in particular those students most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. An LEA receiving funds will be required to ensure transparency, accountability, and make publicly available on their website a plan for the use of funds. The plan must engage in stakeholder consultation and public comment and the plan must be submitted to the NDE within 90 days of receiving ESSER III funds.

Use of Funds Plan (LEA ARP ESSER III Plan)

1. How the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

Southern School District 1 will be using a portion of our ARP ESSER III funds to address deferred maintenance projects in our buildings (Boiler & HVAC). The ARP ESSER III funds will be used to address (1) school facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards and support student health needs; and the ARP ESSER III funds will be used for (2) inspecting, testing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, and upgrading projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including HVAC systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.

2. How the LEA will use the funds it reserves to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year (consistent with the requirement of the ARP Act that each LEA reserve at least 20 percent of its ARP ESSER funds for that purpose)?

The district will purchase high quality instructional materials in the areas of: English Language Arts Intervention curriculum (K-6), Science curriculum (9-12), Social Studies curriculum (K-12), and Spanish curriculum (7-12). Lastly, the district will purchase a PK-8 Social and Emotional Learning curriculum. All of the curriculums that the district plans to purchase will be used to address any forms of learning loss or the aftereffects of it.

3. How the LEA will spend its remaining funds consistent with the ARP Act?

The remaining ARP ESSER III funds will be used to close the digital divide by purchasing new iPads/Laptops to sustain the district one-to-one initiative for all students in PK-12 at Southern School District 1. It will also ensure that if a COVID-19 outbreak were to occur in

our district that we would have the ability to switch to a remote learning environment using the new iPads/Laptops.

- 4. How the LEA will ensure that the interventions that are implemented will address the academic impact of lost instruction time and will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students?**

The district is going to implement a PK-8 social and emotional learning curriculum in the years ahead to address any social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students in our district. The district also plans to purchase high quality instructional materials in the core curriculum areas of Science and Social Studies to get our students on grade level. During the upcoming school year, the district also plans to complete regular communication, using all available modalities, with both our students and families to ensure the safety, academic engagement, and wellness are maintained throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

- 5. Include data that illustrates the LEA's most pressing needs or descriptions of promising practices that the LEA has implemented to accelerate learning?**

Over the past years the district's most pressing need is to address social and emotional issues with our primary grade students and we are excited to use our ARP ESSER III funds to implement a consistent and regularly planned social and emotional curriculum in PK-8 in the years ahead by using Second Step.

Southern School District 1 spent the entire 2020-2021 school year learning in-person. Based on this, our district showed great gains on both the DIBELS and MAP Growth assessments when fall 2020 scores were compared to spring 2021 scores (In the areas of ELA & Math scores).