



## Funding allows more aides

### ARP ESSER dollars target impact of COVID-19 pandemic

Students across the district may notice an extra set of helping hands in their classrooms this year.

Thanks to funds provided by the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER), every elementary school grade level and every secondary core area, such as math, language arts and science, will have an aide helping students with learning.

Davis School District received about \$42 million in ARP ESSER funds. The general purpose of the funding is to help with the impacts COVID-19 has had on schools including learning loss due to quarantines, isolations and school closures.

Assistant Superintendent John Zurbuchen said 20 per-

cent of the funding must be tied to learning loss. Another 10 percent must be designated to help with the health elements associated with the virus — contact tracing aides, nursing services, etc. The district focused 70 percent on other items like technology, personalized learning, class

size reduction and improved air handlers.

“It provides for significant education support,” Zurbuchen said of the extra funding. He added that the district did not choose to replace regular budget expenditures with the funding. Instead, it was added to the budget with the knowledge that it is one-time funding. By 2023, that funding must be spent and so the district was careful to not tie it to programs or necessary staffing that would not continue.

“The tough thing about money like this, especially this much — education is a people business ... we educate with people. The tough thing here is when you hire people, you are only hiring for two

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An Snow Horse Elementary aide helps a sixth-grade student with a math question.

## Foundation off to great start serving, helping students

During the months of August and September, the Davis Education Foundation has seen an incredible outpouring of support from the community.

As awareness has grown for students in crisis, including the 1,300 students experiencing homelessness, Davis County residents have been nothing short of amazing.

“Our hearts have been filled with gratitude as the community has stepped up to help our students in a monumental way,” said Davis Education Foundation Executive Director

Jodi Lunt. “Because of our community, thousands of children will have access to food and basic essentials that they need to both survive and succeed. It really does take a village and we thank the community for being ours.”

Here are a few highlights of the generosity shown in the last two months:

### Child Spree

Child Spree provides clothing essentials and shoes for at-risk students so they can start their school year off right. Nearly 400 elementary children

in need were shopped for at Kohl’s this year, thanks to the generosity of foundation partners and individuals in the community.

### 9/11 National Day of Service

In honor of the 20th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, this year the date was declared a National Day of Service. Approximately 32 different community groups in Davis and Morgan counties used the day of service as a way to give back to Davis School District students

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years and hiring two-year people in this kind of job market is really challenging.”

Parents and staff were involved in pinpointing how the funding would be best spent. Through a survey, class-size reduction and classroom learning aides were identified as the top priorities followed by personalized learning and special programs targeted towards students with IEPs or health plans.

Zurbuchen said about \$12 million of the funds will be used for the first two priorities. The \$1 million in class-size reduction, for instance, allowed some over staffing to continue in schools that had enrollment decreases due to the pandemic. Already 348 aides have been hired and more are needed. Additionally, about \$4.5 million was budgeted for online and summer school. Devices and training purchased with nearly \$13 million of the funding will continue to benefit schools beyond the initial purpose.

The great thing about many of the expenditures, is those programs provide help to all students, he said.

“Those aides are not specifically identified to help a teacher with kids who are behind,” he said. They are there to help the teacher.”

The teacher determines where the aide is needed. That assignment could be in helping with a project that involves all students, working with students who are accelerating so the teacher can work with students who are behind, or working in small groups with students who need extra help. The ESSER funds are not specifically earmarked for

students who have shown deficiencies in learning.

“Either way it frees up the teacher to work with the students the aide is not working with,” he said.

Snow Horse Elementary Principal Joni Slater said already their aides have proven invaluable. They hired five additional teacher assistants (TAs). Those individuals help with language arts and math interventions. Another valuable help has been with the kindergarten students.

“It has been really huge, especially because we haven’t seen a lot of our students who have been able to go to preschool, so they are coming in with a little bit more of a need to get them ready for school,” said Slater

Many of the TAs at her school are retired teachers so they come with teaching knowledge, Slater said.

“We feel fortunate that we were able to fill those positions and get the quality of staff that we needed,” she said.

At Legacy Junior High, the extra positions serve as Student Success Coordinators. Principal TJ Strain said their five coordinators run data on a weekly basis and determine which students are off track for success. The coordinators then work with the student to determine what additional supports are needed.

Currently, he said, the coordinators are establishing a rapport with students and teachers, emphasizing the positive aspects of getting extra help.

“I have seen great things already,” Strain said. “I love walking around the building and seeing a coordinator out with a group of students, going over concepts, teaching them how to use the LMS, or helping them get caught up.”

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in need. Their contributions included more than 16,000 pantry packs, 1,500 grab-and-go food bags, 3,000 hygiene kits, school supplies, diaper bags for young parents and 2,500 backpacks filled with essentials. A large portion of the donated items will be directed to the newly operational Clearfield Cares Teen Center at Clearfield High and five more teen centers slated to start construction this year.

### Stuff the Bus

Hundreds of community members came to Young Kia in Layton to participate in the Stuff the Bus event. Thanks to their kindness, an entire truck was filled with school supplies and donations for students in the Head Start program. Young Kia and Young Caring for Our Young also donated \$10,000 to the program.


### Fore Kids Golf Tournament

More than \$57,000 was raised for classrooms and students this month at the annual Fore Kids Golf Tournament. Thanks to generous sponsors and golfers, educators will have access to the resources they need to enhance the classroom experience so that students have more chances to

succeed.

### Get Involved

Follow the Davis Education Foundation on Facebook and Instagram to stay informed about upcoming projects and ways to get involved. If you would like to contribute to the teen centers being built for students experiencing homelessness, donations can be made at [dsgive.net/event/992](https://dsgive.net/event/992). Scan the QR code to be taken directly to the donation page.



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT  
**REID NEWEY**

The monthly Superintendent’s message is online. [View the welcome from Superintendent Reid Newey on YouTube.](#)

# Employees, students honored for achievements

• Elementary students across the district competed in math, science and engineering events during the Davis School District STEM Olympiad in May. First-place winners include:

• Rocket Launching (Morning session) — **Windridge/Odyssey elementary schools (fourth grade), Lincoln Elementary (fifth grade), Odyssey Elementary (sixth grade);**

(Afternoon session) **Clinton (fourth grade), Endeavour Elementary (fifth grade) and Layton Elementary (sixth grade);**

• Circuits (Morning session) — **Woods Cross Elementary (fourth grade), Odyssey Elementary (fifth and sixth grade);**

(Afternoon session) **Endeavour Elementary (fourth grade), West Bountiful Elementary (fifth grade), Antelope Elementary (sixth grade);**

• Scratch — **Centerville Elementary (fourth grade), Centerville Elementary (fifth) and Knowlton (sixth grade);**

**Burton Elementary (first grade), Canyon Creek Elementary (fifth grade) and Davis Connect (sixth grade);**

• Krypto (Morning session) — **Cook/Odyssey elementary schools (fourth grade), Heritage Elementary (fifth grade) and Cook Elementary (sixth grade);**

(Afternoon session) **Stewart Elementary (fourth grade), West Clinton Elementary (fifth grade) and Layton Elementary (sixth grade);**

• SOMA Cubes (Morning session) — **Taylor/Kaysville elementary schools, Heritage Elementary (fifth grade) and Lincoln Elementary (sixth grade);**

(Afternoon session) **Stewart Elementary (fourth and fifth grades) and Layton Elementary (sixth grade);**

• Logic Grid Puzzle (Morning session) — **Oak Hills/Taylor/Heritage elementary schools (fourth grade), Heritage (fifth grade) and Cook (sixth grade);**

(Afternoon session) **Burton Elementary (fourth grade) and Layton Elementary (fifth and sixth grade).**

• In the month of September, the Board of Education of the Davis School District recognized **Burton Elementary**



Cox



McPheeters

**Teacher Monica Cox and Katrina McPheeters, Holbrook Elementary, for exemplary work helping students.**

• Five Davis School District schools have been recognized by the

Utah Board of Education as Purple Star schools — **Hill Field Elementary, Central Davis Junior High, North Davis Junior High, North Layton Junior High and Woods**

## Cross High.

The designation acknowledges the efforts the schools make to assist students of military families who often find themselves moving and then transitioning from one school to another. The schools are among the first K-12 public schools in Utah to receive the designation.

• Two SeaPerch teams from **Sunset Elementary** placed in the 2021 SeaPerch International Challenge. In the pool course competition, team PHG received second place and team Eat My Bubbles 3.0 received third place.

• **Gwen Wilson from Central Davis Junior High** received first place in the National Future Business Leaders 2021 National Leadership Conference for her performance in Business Etiquette. The program recognizes excellence in a broad range of business and career-related areas. She was honored in a Board of Education meeting on Sept. 7.

• Three elementary students from **Syracuse Elementary** won awards at the 14th Annual Chinese Bridge Competition. The competition is an annual worldwide Chinese speaking and performance competition. **Alison Holt**, sixth grade, took first place in the competition for primary school students. **Emily Holt** received a special honorary award and **Emmy Nelson** was given an Award of Excellence.

• **Kaylee Cardenas, Northridge High** and **Trevor Nelson, Farmington High**, were sworn in as 2021-22 student school board members.

• Sixth-grader **Kelen Gold, a Stewart Elementary** chess club member, was honored as the best elementary chess player in Utah at the Rockefeller Chess Tournament and traveled to New Jersey to represent the state of Utah where he tied for 13th place against representatives from 50 states.



Top: Student members of Team PHG. Bottom: Team members of Eat My Bubbles 3.0.

# Remembering 9/11



A student watches one of the many video screens displaying news reports of that day.



A volunteer tells students about the memorial.



Students watch news reports from 9/11.

## District students visit memorial

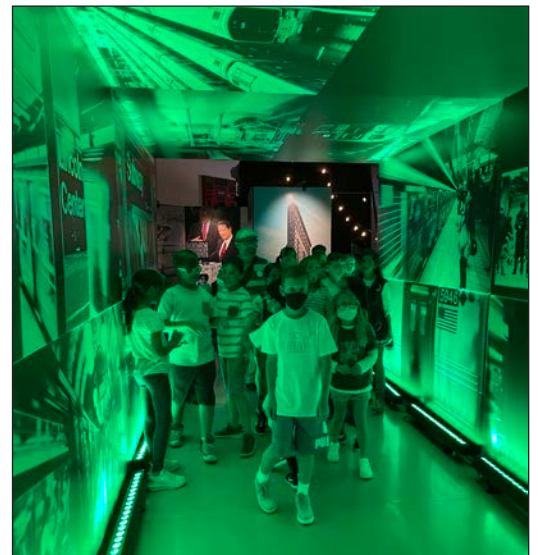
The students in schools today are too young to have witnessed the events of Sept. 11, 2001. It is, however, still an important part of their history.

With that in mind, fifth-grade classes from several schools visited Weber Remembers: The 9/11 project at the Weber County Fairgrounds.

The free exhibit memorialized the events surrounding 9/11 and was geared for people of all ages. Students from Mountain View, Layton, Antelope and Adams elemen-

tary schools were able to tour the memorial, thanks to a transportation grant from Davis Education Foundation.

“Students were emotionally impacted by their experience in the museum and 9/11 became real to them,” said Mountain View Teacher Dayna Deppe. “They were able to trace connections between 9/11 and world events happening now. The museum was a valuable resource for teaching an important aspect of our recent history, and I hope it might become an annual event.”



Students walk through one of the displays.