

Fridley Public Schools ESSER III Grant

Invitation for Community Feedback

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

The ARP Act was signed into law on March 11, 2021 and includes funding for E-12 education in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to Minnesota schools returning to, and maintaining, safe in-person learning for all students.

Minnesota's ARP State Plan

On June 30, 2021, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) submitted a plan to the U.S. Department of Education on the use of flexible federal funds dedicated to education by the American Rescue Plan. An overview of [Minnesota's ARP education investments](#) is available. Minnesotans can also read the [full ARP state plan](#).

Fridley Public Schools ARP Plan

Fridley Public Schools wants to gather input from its community including students, staff, parents, and community members on its ARP Plan. Feedback from the community will help guide how the ARP – ESSER funding we receive will be spent. Please review the plan and use the link on this webpage to submit your comment.

It is important to note that throughout the pandemic, Fridley Public Schools implemented and maintained several mitigation strategies to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff in our buildings. We also implemented technology strategies to ensure students and staff had the technological tools necessary to work and learn remotely should it be necessary to close school buildings. Some of the initiatives and strategies we've put into place include:

1. Sanitizing and Mitigation Strategies (Safe Environment)
 - a. Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization to clean the air coming in to our buildings
 - b. Hand sanitizer stations
 - c. Face masks / shields
 - d. Protective shields for individual desks or stations
 - e. Charged water foggers to clean classrooms and busses
 - f. Portable air purifiers
2. Technology
 - a. Technology devices allowing the ratio of one device to one student
 - b. Technology devices allowing teachers to reach students and/or parents through various online options
 - c. Hot spot opportunities for families without internet access
3. Academics
 - a. Software tools for student learning
 - b. Software tools to assist staff members to teach students in an online method

4. Transportation
 - a. Sanitizing and mitigation strategies to ensure the safety of students, staff, and drivers on busses
 - b. Providing prorated payments to contracted transportation vendors to assist with services such as delivering school supplies and meals to students
5. Personnel
 - a. Providing payment to staff members taking care of children of essential workers
6. Nutritional Services
 - a. Providing meal pickup opportunities for students in need
 - b. Containers to assist with meals for pick up

Eighty percent of the allocated amount we will receive for ARP – ESSER III can be used to implement and maintain the services listed above. In addition, the district plans to use its ESSER III grant funding to support students, families and staff in the following areas:

1. Maintaining a safe environment: Sanitizing and Mitigation Strategies
 - a. Hand sanitizer stations
 - b. Fog classrooms with charged water and environmentally-friendly cleaning agents
 - c. Provide environmentally friendly cleaning solutions for in-between class wipe-downs of desks and seats, cafeteria tables, common space areas, etc.
 - d. Masks for students and staff
2. Supporting the mental and physical health needs of students
 - a. Identify needs of students and staff relating to mental health as well as physical health
 - b. Provide resources to seek assistance with health needs
3. Translation of documents
 - a. Provide translated written materials for families of students to ensure they are aware of ways to get assistance as needed
4. Staff development and resources
 - a. Proactively provide staff the tools and resources they need to be successful which in turns provides positivity and strength for our students to learn, succeed, and thrive
5. Student, family and community engagement
 - a. Re-engage students, families, and the community by providing opportunities to let voices be heard
 - b. Allow collaboration, information-sharing, and listening avenues

Twenty percent of the funding we receive must be spent to address disruption to learning (lost learning) that may have occurred when the state of Minnesota closed schools and in-person learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since summer, the district has considered the following strategies and initiatives to help support students:

1. Summer learning or enrichment programs
 - a. Provide more experience-based opportunities for our students
 - b. Field trips to museums, zoos, parks, etc.
 - c. Hands-on learning classes in areas such as science or lab environments

2. Comprehensive afterschool programs
 - a. Enrich the overall student experience in ways beyond academics
 - b. Activity offerings
3. Extended day programs
 - a. Facilitate student success and enhance focused learning areas
 - i. Math, science, reading
4. Extended school year programs
 - a. Address the needs of special education students over the summer months
 - b. Field trips
 - c. Hands-on learning classes
 - d. Core curriculum

Please take a few minutes and [share your thoughts/opinions with us through this short survey](#).

Thank you!