



## WESTPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**To:** Westport Board of Education Members  
**From:** Anthony Buono, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning  
**Re:** Town of Westport - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Proposals  
**Date:** November 1, 2021

Provided below for Board consideration are proposals for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) pertaining to the Town of Westport.

- 1. Elementary Playground Project** - to make elementary school playgrounds inclusive and accessible to all students. An accessible playground allows children with or without disabilities to access and use a variety of playground equipment. Although accessible playgrounds might look very similar to traditional playgrounds, by including slides, small climbing walls, multiple platforms etc., they also include additional features such as ramps, connecting platforms, tabletop play areas and the absence of wood chips. These are just some of the unique features that make these playgrounds accessible to kids of all abilities. The goal is to make them places where students with wheelchairs or other support equipment can play alongside their peers. On average these playgrounds cost between **\$100,000 to \$200,000**, but can be more or less depending on the extent of the project.

**Estimated cost for all five schools: \$500,000 - \$1,000,000**

- 2. High 5 Adventure Learning Center** - High 5 Adventure Learning Center is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to helping individuals, teams, schools, communities and businesses improve the way they live, learn and work together. Their mission is to provide:
  - Team Development experiences for any group desiring to improve the way they learn and work together.
  - Leadership Development at all levels.
  - Training, certification, consulting and mentoring for adventure programs, individuals and other experiential-based learning venues.
  - Challenging course design and installation, consulting, inspection and repair.

This proposal includes high and low elements and the training necessary to initiate an adventure learning program at Staples High School. This program will be integrated into the physical education curriculum.

**Estimated cost:**

Equipment: \$56,000

Training: \$7,200

**Total:       \$63,200**

- 3. Outdoor Classrooms** - outdoor classrooms for all five elementary schools. Outdoor classrooms have received a lot of attention recently due to the pandemic and efforts to teach safely. However, there are benefits that extend beyond COVID 19 and safety. Outdoor classrooms provide students the opportunity to get outdoors, take in fresh air, and study the earth and nature. For example, you might see students measuring and examining plants growing in class gardens or students composting waste from the school cafeteria. On other occasions, students might find enjoyment by spreading out to read, and by simply taking in the benefits of being outdoors. In either example, outdoor classrooms offer many opportunities for learning, safety and movement during the school day.

An estimated cost for an outdoor classroom at KHS is between \$100,000 - \$120,000.

This estimate was provided by an architect working on the project:

Michael Cusato, RA  
1771 Post Rd E. #166  
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**Estimated cost for all five elementary schools: \$500,000 - \$600,000**

- 4. Middle School Playground Equipment** - although middle school students can benefit a lot from playtime, they often miss out because most middle schools have limited equipment and/or opportunities. By providing play structures that are physically and mentally challenging, schools can offer a space that encourages middle school students to stay active and have fun with their peers.

**Estimated cost for both middle schools: \$200,000 - \$400,000**