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# District Draft ESSER III Plan

Developed for Stakeholder Input

## Background: ESSER I and II Funds

The first Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) was included as part of the CARES Act. ESSER I and ESSER II Funds were appropriated in March, 2020, and December, 2020 respectively.

The District's grant funds, totaling \$2,261,703, were used primarily for COVID prevention measures such as increased air filtration, remote access technology solutions, mitigation strategies to support in-person learning, and additional staffing expenses.

- ESSER I - \$85,000
- ESSER II - \$2,176,703

## **ESSER III Grant**

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, the third federal COVID-19 relief law passed in March 2021, provides one-time funds for school districts through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III grant program.

The grant application process requires school districts to collect input from our staff, families, and students on the District's plan to use the money to achieve the purpose of the ESSER Grant; to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

## ESSER III Grant Overview

Elmbrook Schools was allocated \$945,960 in initial ESSER III Funding. This allocation is divided into two types of expenditures:

- 80% or \$756,768 can be used on [Allowable Expenses](#): intended to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.
- 20% or \$186,192 must be [Evidence-Based Intervention Strategy Expenses](#): Address Learning Loss

Claims for this initial allocation have not yet been submitted but will include expenditures from 2020-21 for mitigation efforts and a portion of expenditures for summer school.

## ESSER III Grant Overview

Elmbrook Schools expects to receive an additional \$5,529,010\* in ESSER III Funding. This allocation is divided into two types of expenditures:

- \$2,238, 230 - [Allowable Expenses](#): intended to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19
- \$3,290,780 - [Evidence-Based Intervention Strategy Expenses](#): Must respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.

Funds may be used to address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our students from March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2024.

*\*The State of Wisconsin is waiting for final approval from the U.S. Department of Education on the plan submitted for these funds, therefore, there may be slight modifications to the amount.*

## **ESSER III Funds Impact on the District's Budget**

Different than many school district's across the state, our 2022-23 budget forecast projects a balanced budget without a need to utilize ESSER funds to balance the budget. This allows the District to intentionally focus the funds on additional, one-time or short-term expenditures required to prevent, prepare and respond to COVID-19.

## Projected Approach to use of ESSER III Funds

As the District considers its approach to the use of ESSER III Funds, it has identified current and future expenses that meet the grant criteria and anticipates the following distribution of grant expenditures:

1. Attribute Funds to evidence-based strategies and allowable expenses **currently in progress** which are intended to address learning loss and meet District Goals and Key Performance Indicators (approximately 60% of ESSER III Funds)
2. Reserve some of the Funds to **meet future needs**, supporting evidence-based strategies and allowable expenses identified during the school improvement planning process each summer (approximately 40% of ESSER III Funds)

## School District of Elmbrook 2021-2022 Goals

Annually, the Board of Education establishes District Goals to prioritize the allocation and use of our human and financial resources. These goals have also been used to prioritize ESSER III grant expenditures.

- Rank in the Top 4 on the 3rd Grade Wisconsin Forward ELA Assessment by June 30, 2022.
- Rank in the Top 4 on the 8th Grade Wisconsin Forward Math Assessment by June 30, 2022.
- Fully implement a revised K-12 Social Studies curriculum by September 2022, ensuring it represents a world view and provides students the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in an American democracy and in a global world.
- Prioritize a culture of wellness with our students and staff.
- Create maximum educational value for our students, families and community.



# ESSER III Grant - Budget Priorities and Sample Expenditures

Several budget priorities (bolded) and expenditures have been identified to achieve the District's strategic goals and meet the ESSER III grant requirements.

## **Focus on Literacy and Math**

- Additional staff such as teaching assistants and interventionists
- Additional classroom library materials

## **Outreach and Service Delivery to Special Populations**

- Progress monitoring tools with data visualization to inform academic instruction
- Increase elementary social work staff
- Expand early childhood outreach services

## **Summer Learning**

- Reading and Math support classes for students below grade level
- High school credit recovery courses
- Jump start for early learners

## **Educational Technology**

- Student and teacher devices
- Classroom technology tools
- Home access support

# ESSER III Grant - Budget Priorities and Sample Expenditures

Several possible budget priorities (bolded) and expenditures have been identified to achieve the District's strategic goals and meet the ESSER III grant requirements.

## **Student Health and Wellness**

- School-based mental health services
- Wellness strategies to promote positive relationships, healthy minds and healthy bodies

## **Staff Health and Wellness**

- Mental health services
- Wellness strategies to help balance work and life

## **Staff Training**

- Staff training on research-based, best practices on literacy, universal design for learning, and executive functioning
- Supporting students' social and emotional needs

## **Preparedness & Response to COVID-19**

- Cleaning equipment and supplies
- Air quality improvements
- Health room staff
- Stabilizing transportation services

## Next Steps

- District leadership will collect and consider stakeholder input
- Board Committees will provide feedback on Esser III Budget Priorities
- The District's ESSER III Grant Plan and our August, 2021, [Return to Learn Plan](#) will be submitted to Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction in March, 2022.
- We will continue to prioritize the academic growth and social and emotional needs of our students each and every day!

## Stakeholder Engagement

The District's senior leadership team is responsible for the development, submission, progress monitoring and transparent reporting of this plan.

We would appreciate your feedback on:

- Esser III Grant Fund Budget Priorities
- Specific need or program suggestions to address priority areas

Please complete this brief [survey](#) and direct any questions you may have to [pr@elmbrookschools.org](mailto:pr@elmbrookschools.org).

This presentation and plan details (when finalized) can be found on our website at <http://www.elmbrookschools.org/esser3>.