

ARP ESSER III Funds

The ESSER3 Consultation Team met in June 2021 to engage with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input via online form. The team consisted of families, school and district administrators, teachers, principals, school leaders, staff and tribal members. The funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. This team, after consultation with additional stakeholders, revisited the plan after school started and made some additional adjustments in October 2021.

Durant Public Schools will utilize ARP ESSER III funds for facility improvements and infrastructure:

- **HVAC** - Seek to purchase \$1.3 million in HVAC systems, so every building used in the district will have HVAC systems replaced that are more than 10 years old. This will provide 30% cleaner air than with our current system. Additional filtration will provide a cleaner, healthier environment for students, teachers, and staff.
- **Flooring** - Seek to use \$700,000 of ARP funding to purchase new flooring, which provides a floor surface that is cleaner and healthier for students and easier to sanitize with COVID – 19 protocols.
- **Transportation** - Seek to use \$1,000,000 of ARP funding to purchase route busses to allow for more routes in order to practice better social distancing.
- **Infrastructure expansion** - Seek to use \$550,000 of ARP funding to expand the district's alternative education campus to allow for better social distancing and increase virtual student capacity.
- **Energy Efficient Windows** - Seek to use \$85,807.59 of ARP funding to purchase Energy efficient windows which will open to allow fresh air circulation.

Durant Public Schools will use the 20% of funds reserved under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act 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. Durant Public Schools will seek to allocate \$1.28 million dollars to have:

- **STEM Mobile Unit/STEM labs** - All grade levels will have access to STEM-centered educational experiences during the summer. The district would like to purchase a mobile STEM unit and add STEM labs to enhance in school and summer learning experiences
- **Summer School** - All grade levels will have the opportunity to engage in enrichment and academic activities to close the gap on summer learning loss.
- **Transitional Boot Camp** - Designed to bridge the gap for students transitioning to a new building.

- **Tutoring & Enrichment** – After school tutoring and enrichment (extended day) software will be purchased to provide opportunities to help students below grade-level or struggling, as well as those who might need an opportunity for credit recovery. These programs will be available 24/7, 365 days a year. The software to be purchased, includes, but is not limited to: Edmentum/Exact Path, BrainFuse, and Edgenuity/OdysseyWare.
- **Professional development** in reading and math for certified staff to implement best practices in accelerating learning and closing the achievement gap.
- **Implement math intervention** by certified teachers at the elementary level to help students gain and build foundational skills to help close learning gaps as soon as they are detected.

Durant Public Schools will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act and will ensure that interventions, including but not limited to those implemented under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act addressing the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

To help with the social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, Durant Schools is seeking to use \$1,450,000 million dollars of ARP to:

- **Retain existing staff** – We will implement methods to retain district existing staff to help maintain the operation of and continuity of services in our district providing a more stable learning environment for our students.
- **Add additional Counselors** - We will add additional counselors to our staff.
- **Add Additional Nurse assistants** - We will add additional nurse assistants, who will function as contact tracers and floating nurse relief
- **Add Additional Certified Personnel** – Hire additional personnel to decrease class sizes and provide other academic support in order to practice better social distancing and provide more individualized education for students to close achievement gaps.

This is the plan for how Durant Public Schools plans to use the ARP ESSER III Funds. The guidelines from the Oklahoma Department of Education outline 19 possible ways these funds may be spent. To find out more information about these guidelines, you may visit the Oklahoma Department of Education's website. If you have any questions or would like to leave a comment about this plan, please e-mail safeschools@durantisd.org.