



## District Administration Office

1877 W. Downer Place  
Aurora, IL 60506

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[www.sd129.org](http://www.sd129.org)

## **ARP ESSER Local Use of Funds Plan**

### **Section 1: Introduction**

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary school emergency relief (ESSER) III fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of Covid-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. West Aurora School District has been awarded \$26,921,015 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Robert Halverson, Assistant Director of Grants and Accountability at [rhalverson@sd129.org](mailto:rhalverson@sd129.org).

West Aurora School District has worked closely with the Kane County Health Department and followed, and will continue to follow, the mitigation strategies and guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and prevention. District 129 remains committed to safely returning to in-person learning 5 days per week. District 129 is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for all students, where equitable access is at the forefront of decision making.

### **Section 2: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies**

ARP Act ESSER III funds may be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC) guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. District 129 will use approximately \$12,425,401 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement the following prevention and mitigation strategies:

- *Air Quality improvements* at Jewel Middle School and West Aurora High School.



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- *Improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission* by replacing windows and/or doors, at the following sites: Goodwin Elementary School, Washington Middle School, Hope Wall School, Hall Elementary School, Jefferson Middle School, Nicholson Elementary School, West Aurora High School, and Schneider Elementary School.
- *Facility disinfection and cleaning* through the allocation of funds for: a district night custodial supervisor, and materials for disinfecting.

### **Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning**

Section 2001 (e)(1) Of the ARP act requires each Local Education Agency (LEA) to use at least 20% of its formula funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after - school programs, or extended school year programs. West Aurora School District will use approximately \$14,495,614 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below:

- Provide 16 content resident specialists at the secondary level
- Provide 10 literacy residents at the elementary level
- Provide 10 math residents at the elementary level
- Provide 6 instructional residents at the secondary level
- Provide 3 bilingual residents throughout the district
- Provide 1 IEP facilitator at the secondary level
- Provide 3 Special Education instructional residents at the elementary level
- Provide parent/teacher beginning of the year planning with all elementary teachers and each guardian to meet individual needs
- Provide 13 professional development substitutes throughout the district to provide the opportunity for staff to plan for increased differentiation to meet the needs of students



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- After school tutoring at all grade levels
- Allocation of funds for a social-emotional learning coordinator to facilitate SEL learning at all sites
- Allocation of funds for an assistant director of assessments to assist with the newly purchased district assessment platform I-Ready
- Literia After School Tutoring platform for all grade levels
- Summer Enrichment in FY23 and FY24
- Lexia professional development subscription for elementary staff to improve foundational skills of literacy instruction
- AVID online platform/training for staff to assist with professional learning through workshops, online modules, and a wide selection of other resources
- Partnership with Waubensee Community College to provide additional dual-credit courses for secondary students
- Updating of elementary classroom libraries to promote a further love of literacy through equity minded texts
- Decodable Texts for elementary classrooms to provide carefully sequenced, progressively sequenced words that are consistent with letter-sound correspondences

#### **Section 4: Other Uses of Funds Section**

2001(e) of the ARP Act permits school divisions to use the ARP Act ESSER III funding not reserved to address unfinished learning to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways. District 129 will not use any of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001 (e) of the ART Act for the reason described below:

- No other use of funds will be utilized as all funding was used to address unfinished learning and prevention and mitigation strategies



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#### **Section 5: Addressing Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

District 129 will operate on a five day a week school schedule for all students. District 129 will implement targeted interventions during the school day to all students as needed, 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.

District 129 will provide professional development to all staff regarding Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) and trauma. Teachers and instructional staff will incorporate SEL strategies in lessons and student interactions as needed. District 129 will continue to partner with Family Counseling Services to provide counseling services as needed to students.

District 129 will continue to provide nurses at all schools in the district. The nurses will oversee isolation areas and assist administrators when responding to potential cases of exposure. District 129 will open cafeterias using limited capacity schedules to maintain social distancing between all students and staff while eating or drinking. Tables and chairs will be disinfected between each meal shift.

Athletics will follow the guidelines established by IDPH and recommendations by the Kane County Health Department.

Extracurricular and after school activities will follow all mitigation strategies and procedures that are required during the regular school day.



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#### **Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment**

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, District 129 conducted consultation in the following ways:

- District 129 sought input from our school Community about our plans for both the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.
- Possible funding expenditures were discussed at public school board meetings.

#### **Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public**

District 129 has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at [www.sd129.org](http://www.sd129.org)
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Robert Halverson, Assistant Director of Grants and Accountability – [rhalverson@sd129.org](mailto:rhalverson@sd129.org)