

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #2

Ashland School District

Inter-Lakes School District

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October 21, 2022

Dear Inter-Lakes Families and Community,

Re: Remaining Use of ESSER III Funds

I hope this correspondence finds your family well and having had a positive start to the school year. The purpose for my connecting today is to make you aware that on Tuesday evening (October 25) the School Board will be potentially considering how the remaining ESSER III funds are spent. ESSER funds were provided to School Districts to respond and recover from COVID-19 and prepare for future potential issues. A list of uses for ESSER III funds is below and more specifics may be found [HERE](#).

- Any activities authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, IDEA, Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(A) through Section 2001(e)(2)(D).
- Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of LEAs with state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(E).
- Activities that address unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youths, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(F).
- Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(G).
- Training and professional development for LEA staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(H).
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean facilities operated by an LEA. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(I).
- Planning and coordination during long-term closures, including how to provide meals to eligible students, how to provide online learning technology to all students, how to provide guidance on meeting IDEA requirements, and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with federal, state, and local requirements. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(J).
- Purchasing educational technology, which could include hardware, software, and connectivity, for students served by the LEA that aids in regular, substantive educational interaction between students and educators, including low-income students and students with disabilities. This could also include assistive technology or adaptive equipment. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(K).
- Providing mental health services and supports. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(L).
- Planning and implementing summer learning and supplemental afterschool program activities, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(M).
- Other activities necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in LEAs and continuing to employ existing staff ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2).
- Addressing learning loss among all students in all subgroups, including by: 1) Administering high-quality, reliable assessments that can assess student academic progress and assist educators in meeting student needs, including by using differentiated instruction. 2) Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students. 3) Providing information and assistance to parents and families on ways to support students. 4) Tracking student performance and engagement in distance learning environments. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(N).
- School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards and support student health needs. ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(O).

- Inspecting, testing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, and upgrading projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including HVAC systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement. ARPA Section 2001(e)(2)(P).
- Development of strategies and implementation of public health protocols that align with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on reopening and operating school facilities to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. ARPA Section 2001(e)(2)(Q).

Source: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FACT SHEET American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (ARP ESSER)

A breakdown of how the School District has used ESSER I, ESSER II and ESSER III fund to date may be found [HERE](#).

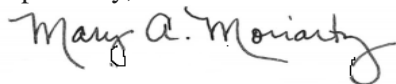
Keeping in mind the allowable activity of “improving air quality” with ESSER III funds, the School District set out over a year plus ago to study in each school our current ventilation systems and learn what improvements may be made to create even healthier environments. The School District hired Eckhardt and Johnson Mechanical Contractors to complete this study. At the October 11th School Board meeting, the results of the study were presented through a proposed scope of work. The phase of work presented costs over \$900,000 and will provide ventilation pathways to increase outdoor air and filtration to spaces, will allow for our systems the highest possible number of air exchanges, and will begin to provide temperature control in some spaces with the objective of reducing humidity. Expanding the number of spaces with temperature control will increase the proposed cost and will need to be considered in the future.

As we have learned of the indoor ventilation benefits that can be gained for each school building, I will be recommending to the School Board that all of the remaining ESSER III funds (just over \$900,000) be used to complete the ventilation scope of work presented on October 11; draft minutes from the October 11 School Board meeting can be found [HERE](#).

As shared earlier in this correspondence, there are multiple uses for ESSER funds that may be found [HERE](#). If you would like to share feedback on the recommendation on the use of the remaining funds for the ventilation project or if you have feedback on other areas for consideration, please email esser.feedback@interlakes.org no later than 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25. Additionally, please be reminded that School Board meetings are public meetings which may be accessed in person or online. The meeting on October 25 starts at 6:00 p.m. at the Humiston Building Conference Room, 103 Main Street, Meredith; the link for online access can be found [HERE](#). The agenda for the meeting may be found [HERE](#).

Thank you in advance for your feedback and ongoing partnership to meet the needs of our learners and the greater community.

Respectfully,



Mary A. Moriarty
Superintendent of Schools