

## YES Prep Public Schools | ESSER III Updated Use of Funds Plan

It has been a challenging 2 years navigating COVID-19, an unprecedented crisis that affects our YES Prep community, our city, country, and the globe. COVID-19 imposed necessary adjustments to our day-a-day lives to keep us safe. As is well known, the pandemic had devastating effects to our economy and loss of life, disproportionately affecting those communities with limited financial resources and access to technology. In education, experts estimate that students in the U.S. have lost at least a year of learning and the losses are greater for poor and marginalized students. YES Prep Public School's commitment to providing high-quality public education remains vital and is even more critical as we work together to overcome academic gaps caused by the pandemic.

The Federal Government passed a series of federal stimulus bills with a portion of each bill set aside to address the impact of COVID-19 on schools. YES Prep Public Schools applied for each of the offered Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief (ESSER) Funds available through these stimulus bills. This Use of Funds Plan refers to the ARP, 2021, from which YES Prep received \$49,690,868.

### Stakeholder Input

Our students, their families, the communities we serve, and YES Prep employees at all levels are integral to our core business of educating students. In May 2021, YES Prep published a public survey to seek input from Board members, staff, students, parents, community members, and at-large stakeholders. The survey was open for three weeks and requests for participation in the survey were published on our website, via our social media pages, and through multiple internal communication structures. In May 2022, YES Prep sought another layer of input with a specified focus on health and safety and further strategies to address the academic impact of COVID-19 with an intent to address the specific needs of our most vulnerable student populations. This input was gathered internally through an additional survey and team meetings over the span of three weeks. Below is a table that represents the stakeholders that offered their spending recommendations for ESSER:

Connection to YES Prep	%	Count*
YES Prep Student	21%	28
YES Prep Family	32%	43
YES Prep District Administrator	5%	7
YES Prep Teacher / Instructional Staff	18%	25
YES Prep Principal	0%	0
YES Prep Campus Leadership	7%	9
YES Prep Non-Instructional Staff	7%	10

Other Educator external to YES Prep	1%	2
Member of a Native American Tribe	0%	0
Civil Rights Organization (including disability rights organization)	1%	1
Family or stakeholder representing interests of a special population (e.g., English learners, students with disability, etc.)	5%	7
Children with disabilities		4
English Learners		4
Migratory students		1
Other Underserved Students		1
Other	3%	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>136</b>

\*Stakeholders were allowed to choose multiple categories. Total sums to more than recorded responses

The following table summarizes ESSER III spending recommendations shared by our students, families, and staff. Stakeholders were asked to select their top five uses of ESSER funds based on allowable categories. Items listed are examples of what was captured in the comments of the surveys. **Categories in this table represent recommendations, but do not represent final spending decisions as some items are not allowable under ESSER guidelines.**

Recommendations Made By Stakeholders	Percent of Total Recommendations
Additional Instructional Staff / class size reduction	9.90%
Additional compensation (e.g., extra duty pay, stipends)	8.38%
Counseling, social, mental health services	8.12%
Structured before/after school programs	7.11%
Instructional setting upgrades (CTE labs, etc.)	6.35%
Other academic enrichment and student readiness programs	5.84%
Tutoring, distinct from before/after/summer programs	5.84%
Parent engagement services	5.83%
Professional development aligned to high-quality instructional materials	5.58%
Curricular resource purchases	5.58%
Special education services	4.82%
Structured summer school programs	4.57%
Food services	4.57%
Talent pipeline supports (e.g., grow your own residencies)	4.31%
Air quality / ventilation upgrades	3.05%
Strategic planning supports	3.05%
Other interventionists	2.28%

Student advising	2.28%
Nursing, general health services	1.78%
Additional school days (intercessional, full-year extension)	0.76%

### YES Prep Public School's ESSER Allocations by Category

Allocations outlined below might shift in FY23 and FY24. ESSER budgets will be amended based on needs as determined by ongoing needs assessments and student data. Any future changes will be updated in this document and published on YES Prep's website.

ESSER III	
<b>Timeline</b>	Spend by Sep. 2024
<b>Allotment</b>	\$45,268,815
<b>Indirect cost</b>	\$4,422,053
<b>Net Allotment</b>	\$49,690,868
Allocation Categories	ESSER III
<b>Meeting students' academic, social, emotional, and other needs (excluding mental health supports)</b>	87.6%
<b>Social Emotional Learning &amp; Mental Health</b>	5.7%
<b>Addressing Physical Health and Safety</b>	4.2%
<b>Operational Continuity and Other Uses</b>	2.5%

### Responding to COVID-19: Use of ESSER III Funding at YES Prep

#### Academic Instruction, Intervention, & Parent Partnership

YES Prep has reimagined prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education and is committed to accelerating learning for all our students. To address the academic impact of lost instructional time due to COVID-19, we will use ESSER III funds to implement a robust Unified Intervention Strategy focused on a scaffolded, evidence-based core curriculum, a unified tutorial program offered after school and on Saturdays to target skill and knowledge gaps, at-home libraries for our prekindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, a Parent Portal to meaningfully engage our parents as learning partners and extending programming into the summer for both enrichment and intervention needs. We are

taking particular care to ensure instructional curriculum, resources, and instructional technology purchased using this fund include targeted support for our students in special populations to directly meet their academic and social-emotional needs.

#### Technology

Making technology available to our students and teachers is key to providing high quality education as they can more readily access books, content, novels, and applications. ESSER will ensure a one-to-one student-to-device ratio for all students, prekindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Instructional technology like document cameras and projectors will be upgraded and installed throughout the district.

#### Social Emotional Learning & Mental Health

YES Prep has seen firsthand the impact of trauma associated with COVID-19 on our students and community. The use of ESSER funds have allowed us to create a pipeline program for Directors of Student Supports. These roles supervise our Student Support Counselors, which provide critical services for our YES Prep community.

#### Addressing Physical Health and Safety

The safety of our students and staff is a top priority. Funds here will be used to ensure that all of YES Prep Schools are thoroughly cleaned on a regular schedule, giving special attention to high traffic areas and frequently touched surfaces. These funds will be invested in minor safety improvements to our buildings such as classroom-to-office communications. In years 2 and 3 of ESSER III, YES Prep will seek approval from TEA to replace and upgrade HVAC systems at certain campuses to enhance ventilation and filtration.

#### Operational Continuity and Other Uses

Most funds in this category are allocated to cover the cost of keeping our buildings open during the summer while we extend learning time for our students. We are also allocating funds to additional personnel to be able to sustain the additional support we are putting in place for our students. YES Prep is also allocating funds for software to increase our efficiency in operations. We are also allocating funds for additional personnel and systems to sustain the layers of support we are putting in place to address the loss of instructional time.

Commented [YR1]: Are we still doing this?

Commented [HK2R1]: Have a question out about this to Cesar

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## Safely Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services

YES Prep is committed to the safety of all students, families, and staff. In close alignment to CDC recommendations and within the scope of policies allowed within the state of Texas, YES Prep planned and implemented the following COVID health and safety protocols. These policies are reviewed, revised, and published as circumstances and recommendations change. For our most updated protocols, please visit our website.

[YES Prep Public Schools Safe Return to Instruction Plan](#)

Commented [YR4]: @Pinero, Delicia this also links to old information :(

*Additional YES Prep Health & Safety Resources to Address Prevention of COVID-19*

<a href="#">YES Prep's COVID-19 Health &amp; Safety Site</a>	
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Commented [YR5]: @Pinero, Delicia this link does not lead to Health safety. Just safety

