

# Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding

## Return to In-Person Learning 2021-2022

This document serves as the Sandridge #172 plan for the return to full in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year including the proposed utilization of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding.

The plan utilizes four areas to ensure the return to in-person learning happens safely and efficiently for all. The four areas include Social/ Emotional Learning Support, Academic Learning Support, COVID Safety Related Items, and Capital Improvements Related to COVID.

### **Social/ Emotional Learning Support**

Issues related to mental health have become exasperated as a result of COVID related challenges. As we return to in-person learning we will do the following to address this area:

- Use data to identify students particularly in need
- Use research-based programs and interventions
- Implement in-school reading/math interventions
- Implement after-school support programs
- Address the needs of children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English Learners, marginalized groups, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth
- Provide staff professional development opportunities
- Provide community outreach to early learning organizations in the community

The District's approach to addressing this area will be based heavily on a screening process to identify students and families most in need.

### **Academic Learning Support**

Learning loss has occurred due to the phases of time that students were not in-person to receive instruction. It is now more important than ever to utilize interventions to remediate and support students academically. As we return to in-person learning we will do the following to address this area:

- Use multiple sources of data to benchmark and identify students' current performance levels.

- Utilize our Title and ELL remediation programs to impact as many students as possible.
- Provide professional development opportunities for teacher to improve instruction
- Create after school tutoring and intervention clubs for students in need
- Create a summer school remediation program to address learning loss
- Purchase and increase technology related items to be used as resources in classrooms.

Our plan recognizes that no less than 20% of all ESSER III funds must be used to address unfinished learning. The cost of the interventions listed above comprise more than 20% of the funds granted. We believe these supports are sustainable beyond the issuance of these funds and will continue to support students for years to come.

### **Covid Safety Related Items**

The health and safety of our students and staff is always our top priority. The COVID-19 global pandemic has taught us important lessons on how to ensure the safety of our students and staff. In addition to following all recommended IDPH guidance we will do the following:

- Hire an additional custodian to increase and enhance of level of cleanliness
- Ensure proper mask wearing at all times for all students and staff
- Purchase supplies and equipment to sanitize and clean facilities including electromagnetic sprayers

### **Capital Improvements Related to COVID**

These grant funds will allow our district to address multiple campus areas of needed renovation to improve the learning environment while also increasing COVID related safety. They include the following:

- Renovation of the front entrance office area to include a nurse suite, temperature checking station, and quarantine area.
- Renovation of bathroom for COVID safety (touchless fixtures, hand dryers, etc.)
- Creation of outdoor classroom learning space