



Orange County Public Schools  
**Empowering Students**  
Achieving Dreams

*200 Dailey Drive  
Orange, VA 22960  
(540) 661-4550*

**Orange County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARP)  
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Plan (ESSER III) 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.

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) has been awarded \$5,289,466.20 in ESSER III funds. The timeline for the allocation of these funds is March 20, 2020 – September 30, 2024. These funds are available on a reimbursable basis meaning that OCPS must expend funds in accordance with the plan and then request reimbursement. This plan explains how the funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Gary Honaker at [gthonaker@ocss-va.org](mailto:gthonaker@ocss-va.org).

**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. Orange County Public Schools will use approximately \$2,071,826 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies. OCPS prevention and mitigation strategies include the purchasing of a fleet management system that will support contact tracing efforts on school buses and allow parents to know their child's bus location and retrofit buses with air conditioning to improve air quality. Orange County School will make updates to the HVAC systems at Orange Elementary, Gordon-Barbour, and Locust Grove Elementary Schools. Funds have also been allocated to purchase cleaning and sanitizing as part of our mitigation strategies.

**Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning**

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA to use twenty percent 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 afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. Orange County Public Schools will use approximately \$2,304,505 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning. OCPS will address learning loss by employing additional support personnel to provide in

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school tutoring for grades K-5, providing summer learning programs, purchasing iPads for instruction, obtaining instructional software, and employing full-time substitutes to assist with continuity of instruction.

#### **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. Orange County Public Schools will use approximately \$833,691 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act. OCPS will utilize these funds provide MiFi's for remote learning, increase Cybersecurity with a Backup and Disaster Recovery service, and support the food service program in offering free meals to students.

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

OCPS will use approximately \$79,444 of the ESSER funds to hire a Student Support Coach who will support students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.

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

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan Orange County Public Schools conducted consultation with stakeholders, including students, families, community leaders, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators and school staff. These stakeholders represented the student population including children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students. Input was collected through a google survey that was distributed via email to staff, parents, and community members. The survey was conducted from August 1, 2021, thru August 8, 2021. Respondents were given a list of the 15 allowable uses of the ESSER III funds and asked to select three areas that they felt should be the top priorities of the school division. The respondents were also asked to provide information on the areas that they felt would most effectively address academic learning lost.

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

Orange County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at [www.ocss-va.org](http://www.ocss-va.org)
- The plan is available in other languages upon request. Please contact [instruction@ocss-va.org](mailto:instruction@ocss-va.org) if you need a translated copy.
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact the office of instruction to request translation at 540-661-4550.
- 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 the office of special education at 540-661-4550.