



Will County School District 92

Empowering Each Student With a Love of Learning

2021-24



Use of Funds Plan

Inspire-Engage-Innovate

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law on March, 2021 by President Joe Biden. This legislation included \$122.8 billion dollars to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 and ensure that elementary and secondary schools could remain open and functioning while dealing with the challenges presented with educating students during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the largest single investment in federal elementary and secondary education in the nation's history.

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan ESSER III Fund is to provide support to help safely reopen and sustain the healthy operation of schools and to address the many impacts of COVID-19 by addressing the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of students.

Will County School District 92 is slated to receive funds from three major COVID-19 relief packages approved by Congress: ESSER I, ESSER II, and ESSER III. Each school district in Illinois was allotted funds during each round of ESSER funding. The District has been allocated the following amounts to be used on eligible expenses between March 13, 2020 and September 30, 2024: ESSER I - \$107,000, ESSER II – \$421,332, and ESSER III - \$945,795. Federal law requires that any money expended under ESSER III be outlined for the public and submitted to the Illinois School Board of Education.

Will County School District 92 engages in meaningful on-going consultation with a variety of community stakeholder groups regarding its plans to support students, teachers and staff through the COVID-19 pandemic and transition to in-person learning. ESSER funding priorities were guided by goals in the District 92 Strategic Plan, a collaboratively written mission and action plan for the district conceived by 64 members of the district learning community.

The district communicates its plans to support learning and provide continuity of services to students through monthly Board meetings, Superintendent forums, newsletter publications, community involvement in a strategic planning process, parent advisory teams, and the district leadership team.

ESSER III funds can be used for any of the following initiatives:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Activities authorized under existing federal funding guidelines (Every Student Succeeds Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Perkins V, McKinney-Vento, or Adult Education and Family Literacy Act) •Activities to address the needs of disadvantaged students •Coordination of preparedness and response with local units of government to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19 •Providing principals/districts with resources to address the needs of their schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Developing and implementing procedures for preparedness and response efforts to the pandemic •Training and professional development for staff on sanitation •Mental health services and support •Supplies for sanitation •Planning for and coordinating long-term closures •Educational technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Summer and extended learning opportunities •Addressing learning loss •Preparing schools for reopening and testing •School facility repairs and improvements to reduce risk of virus transmission •Repairing and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings •Other activities necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services
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ESSER III spending guidelines require that at least 20% of the district's allocated funds be budgeted to address the impact of lost instructional time or learning loss through the implementation of evidenced-based interventions. Appropriate uses may include: 1) additional staffing to reduce class sizes and facilitate small group instruction to support remote, hybrid or in-person learning needs during the pandemic, 2) summer programming staffing and curricular costs, 3) extended learning opportunities, and 4) focused tutoring efforts during the school day through certified interventionists in reading and mathematics to address academic needs of disadvantaged and/or at-risk students.

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In consultation with our community stakeholders, District 92 plans to allocate ESSER III funds to meet the needs of its learning community in the following ways:

Safe Operations of Schools:

Heating Air Conditioning and Ventilation: Funds will be used for repairs and upgrades to the HVAC systems in all three (Walsh, Reed, and Ludwig) school buildings (See District 92 **Strategic Plan** Goal 5 Resources: Long Term Facilities Plan).

Personal Protective Equipment: The District will continue to purchase PPE for staff and students as directed by the Center for Disease Control and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Instruction/Learning Loss

Staffing: Funds will be used to increase teacher staffing to meet the demands of remote and hybrid instruction during FY 21 and FY22. By reducing class size, teachers can spend focused time with individual students in a flexible schedule, offer strategic small group standards-based skill instruction, and provide intervention work based on assessment data in reading and mathematics to address learning loss as a result of lost instructional time from the pandemic (See District 92 **Strategic Plan Goal 1** Student Growth and Achievement-Standards and Data-based Reporting).

Focus Tutoring: Funds will be used for staff in reading and mathematics facilitate a focused tutoring program during the day for students who have fallen behind academically to reach satisfactory progress in courses for which they risk failure (See District 92 **Strategic Plan Goal 1** Student Growth and Achievement-Standards and Data-based Reporting)

Summer School: Funds will be used for summer school classes staffing and materials for all qualifying students (See District 92 **Strategic Plan Goal 1** Student Growth and Achievement-Standards and Data-based Reporting).

Online Programming: Online academic programs to address learning loss will be purchased by the District.

Will County School District 92's itemized **Use of Funds Plan** follows for ESSER I, II and III. This plan will be visited regularly and amended by district leadership as needed.

Learning Loss and Acceleration

ARP – ESSER III

Summer School – Approximately \$430,000 will be spent in total for FY21, FY22, and FY23 in order to provide summer school programming and extended learning opportunities for reading and math interventions.

Facility Operations/Health and Safety

ARP – ESSER III

Air Quality Improvements – Approximately \$300,000 will be spent improving air quality at Walsh, Reed, and Ludwig for FY22 and FY23.

Instruction and Technology

ARP – ESSER III

Additional Certified Teachers – Approximately \$825,000 will be utilized to hire certified teachers to address Covid-19 remote instruction/hybrid, social distancing, and flexible scheduling for SY21, SY22, and SY23.

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