

North Conejos School District RE 1 - J

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ESSER III EXPENDITURE NARRATIVE

NCS D COMMUNITY:

The utilization of ESSER III funds was designed to bridge the learning loss of all students through wise spending of funds received. Via many means, the leadership and staff of the North Conejos School District RE-1J convened on several occasions to decipher data and formulate a plan tailored to the needs of all students after traversing through the COVID 19 pandemic, and its many challenges related to distance learning, remote learning, reduced in-person instruction and the various quarantines associated with the pandemic. To this end, the application of the ESSER III specifics stands approved, and this synopsis will provide a brief look at how the funds were secured, for what purposes and the thinking behind the various line items associated in the grant detail, specified on the district website at <https://www.northconejos.com/Page/1873>.

The funding provided through the federal government was designed to provide means necessary to recover learning loss associated with the pandemic and the extraordinary circumstances by which the district was to continually educate our students. The funding provided some flexibility in how the funding was to be spent, provided the expenditures fit given parameters and then was to be approved through the Colorado Department of Education. To that end, the district did receive approval for the expenditure of funds listed on the above website, after a couple of revisions to assure we aligned in all ways with the rules of ESSER III.

Staff was utilized to assist in garnering information in terms of what would best meet the needs of students with respect to learning loss caused by COVID. Moreover, all in-district methods of assessment from formal to informal assessments were utilized to decipher what would best help students recover any learning loss. Parents were also utilized in various ways, from administrative conversations in addition to those conveyed conversations between teachers and parents, feedback from the NCS D School Board, as well as grade monitoring, and by a detailed watch of student performance at all levels.

Through these means, the following general ideas surfaced where the actions specified in the ESSER III application came to be:

>Space- given that COVID 19 and its subsequent strains require better social distancing than normally contained in the district, additional personnel, equipment and actions were listed in the grant with a short explanation to better utilize, gain and sustain student spacing to better combat COVID now and in the future. Additional classroom space is one item of particular interest.

>Curriculum- garnered from the performance data of students in a multitude of ways, various curriculum needs were addressed in the plan to assist students in learning loss recovery. Again,

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specified in the plan, those specific curriculum needs stemmed from performance data and directly address the gaps in learning loss now and in the future.

Personnel- in addition to creating more space and reducing class size, additional personnel is listed within the plan as having more people to provide instruction, be it initial instruction or to provide specificity in relation to specific standards and skills is essential to address learning loss.

Summer Programs- to greatly increase instructional time relative to learning loss, summertime instructional programming has been implemented. As seen specifically within the plan, the implementation of never before utilized summer programming complete with its necessary personnel, is included and explained.

Assisting Personnel- aides, critical to assist regular classroom teachers, are included in the plan to provide direct support, tutoring, detailing services to specific students according to student needs, are included in the ESSER III plan

Equipment- from cleaning to storage, some equipment was requested and approved to provide additional space to create more room, to provide space for additional instruction or to provide separated group instruction as needed, was secured.

Additional Supports- several items listed in the approved application are present that offer a combination of benefits to the above listed general ideas, all designed to not only catch students up given any measured weakness, but to enhance current instruction.

**As of note, the NCSd has left additional funding available and yet to be designated in the plan to have ample funding to address student needs as we currently are participating in state assessments and finishing this 2021-22 school year. Given results, accompanied by additional school and classroom assessments, will drive the decisions on where to allocate the money set aside for such purpose. The goal in mind with those funds is parallel with the already secured funding, to allow students the opportunity to address any learning loss with equity and integrity, and to continue on an expected course of learning gain for their current and future success.

