

Southwestern Central School District



ARP-ESSER Funds

June 15, 2021

Southwestern CSD ARP-ESSR Funding Plan

Introduction

The 2021-22 enacted state budget includes language requiring local education agencies, such as school districts, that receive funding from the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP-ESSER) to post on its website a plan by school year of how these funds will be spent.

New York has been allocated nearly \$9 billion in ARP-ESSER funds, with a minimum of \$8.09 billion (90 percent) going to local education agencies, including public schools. *Southwestern Central School District* has been allocated \$2,058,827. Of those total allocations, \$411,765.00 is reserved for summer enrichment programs, after-school programming, and academic remedial services for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 school year.

Districts are also required to prioritize spending on **non-recurring** expenses in the following areas:

- Safely returning students to in-person instruction.
- Maximizing in-person instruction time.
- Operating schools and meeting the needs of students.
- Purchasing educational technology.
- Addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, including the impacts of interrupted instruction, and learning loss and the impacts on low-income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness.
- Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs.
- Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; and
- Supporting early childhood education.

In addition, districts must identify programs and services that will continue beyond the availability of these federal funds and how local funds will be used moving forward in order to minimize disruption to core academic and other school programs.

Stakeholder Involvement

Before posting this plan, districts are required to seek public comment from parents, teachers and other stakeholders and take such comments into account in the development of the plan. To seek input from stakeholders, three thought exchanges (<https://www.thoughtexchange.com/>) were released for community members/ parents, staff, and students. Results of these exchanges were reviewed by the administrative staff and shared publicly.

If you have specific questions or wish to provide further input, please contact Mrs. Maureen Donahue, Southwestern CSD Superintendent, at mdonahue@swcsc12.org In addition to the thought exchanges, input from staff has been ongoing throughout the 2020-21 school year. Each building's reopening committee met periodically to make recommendations. The administrative team collaborated with their

departments to determine what is needed to safely return students to the most optimal situation possible.

Safely returning students to in-person instruction

Plan Summary:

In April 2021, elementary students were brought back to full-time, five days a week in-person instruction. Remote learning was still provided for those families that requested to remain in that program for the rest of this school year. Middle and high school students remained on a hybrid (every-other-day) program due to social distancing requirements. It is our intent to return all students back to full-time in-person instruction.

In order to transition students back to a full-time in-person instruction program, Southwestern will provide a *back-to-school kick-off* program for our high school students at the beginning of the school year. In order to address social-emotional needs of middle and high school students, Southwestern is planning on special field trips and events so cohorts can be reacquainted as some students have not seen each other since March 2020. ARP funding will be allocated for social-emotional activities, specifically programs from *Prevention Works* addressing decision-making skills and stress management for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 school years.

- Field trips and kickoff event for back to school
- Prevention Works Social-Emotional Learning program

Maximizing in-person instruction time

Plan Summary:

The SW District will maximize in person instructional time by providing a comprehensive Pre-K-12 NY Standards based educational programs for all students. Specific identified resources will be provided district wide for all students to enhance the daily instructional program. Additional staffing will target specific student needs identified according to the District RTI Plan. To maximize academic achievement for all students the district will provide summer programming, after school programming, and additional interventions throughout the school year. An ELA teacher will be supported with ARP funds to keep student numbers down in each section of ELA. A classroom aide is also supported to help teachers focus on the social-emotional and academic needs of the students.

- ELA teacher
- One Classroom Aide Position
- Purchase replacement Piano for elementary school

Operating schools and meeting the needs of students

Plan Summary:

The district will adhere to all State DOH (Department of Health) and NYSED (New York State Education Department) guidelines to ensure a safe operation of schools. SW will install upgraded Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) units in various classrooms. The Starkway FFU (Fan Filter Unit) is proven able to capture consistently sub-micron particles down to .007 microns which is 40 times smaller than a HEPA filter can

capture. This technology is MERV 20 equivalent in performance and UL867 Tested for No Ozone and ETL tested to validate effectiveness and performance. Upgraded cleaning protocols will continue throughout the buildings and all district owned properties. A video scoreboard will be purchased to upgrade the athletic complex and provide streaming and visual presentation opportunities in a large outdoor area. Signage will be purchased to address any on-going safety needs. The Middle and High School Speaker and alarm system will be replaced.

- HVAC System
- Maintenance Equipment and Supplies
- Video Scoreboard
- Signage
- IP Speaker System for Middle and High School

Purchase of educational technology

Plan Summary:

The SW district continues to support the integration of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Music) education across all curricular areas. Supporting a rigorous curriculum coupled with opportunities for all students is a focus in the district. Equipment purchases include:

- Kilns and pottery equipment
- Digital photography cameras and equipment
- Heat and Vinyl Presses
- Music Surround System and Recording equipment
- SMARTBoard supplies and installation
- CNC Router
- Repairs to STEAM lab due to COVID
- Upgraded equipment for wood shop and technology labs

Addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all students, including low-income students, students with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness.

Plan Summary:

The district has revised the K-12 Response to Intervention Plan with full implementation for the 2021-22 school year. Student needs will be identified for academic as well as social and emotional needs. Staff and student resources will be allocated at all levels. Many of our programming that addresses the impact of COVID-19 on all students is supported by different sources (e.g., ESSA Grant Funds and IDEA funding) and also is supported from the CRRSA ESSER 2 Funds. However, the district does intend to utilize some ARP funding to address the impact of COVID-19 on students. In particular, the SWCS anticipates a great need for Academic Intervention Services and other small-group or individualized instruction. In addition to supporting an AIS position with ARP funds, the district intends to hire a Teaching Assistant to help elementary students receive small group and/or individual attention.

- Supporting an Academic Intervention Services teacher
- Supporting a Teacher Assistant for addressing academic technology needs

Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health and academic needs.

Plan Summary:

The district has an approved K-12 Guidance Plan that will be updated and fully implemented. Resources will be allocated at all grade levels utilizing evidence-based strategies. The district has expanded programs offered through *Prevention Works* to add education and support for students on stress management, decision making, and preventing substance use. Professional Development opportunities to address academic, social or emotional needs will be available to teachers district-wide.

- Professional Development
- District-wide Evidence-based programming to support Social-Emotional Learning
- Flexible furniture for learning spaces

Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs.

Plan Summary:

The SW District will implement a Pre-K – 12 summer school program that addresses all NY State Learning Standards with an emphasis on Social-Emotional Learning. The District has developed a fifteen-day summer enrichment program for students grades k-8 for the 2021-2023 summers. Our intent is to expand the program to high school for the 2022-23 summers, however, after canvassing students there was not a strong interest from students to commit on such a short timeframe. High school students in need of credit recovery will participate in the Regional Summer School program funded by the general budget. The k-8 summer school program will offer students experiences in ELA, math, science, and other content areas such as technology, physical education and art. Students in middle school will have some choices in their programming. The Chautauqua Lake Yacht Club has partnered up with SWCS to offer sailing instruction for students once a week for the month of July.

The SWCS district intends to offer extended school day opportunities for those that need it for the next three school years. Students can participate in tutoring sessions beyond the school day that need additional instruction or support from their teacher(s). If a student must be quarantined, tutoring can be provided for students. Allocations have been reserved in case this becomes a need. Teachers will also have the opportunity to keep students after school for special events, clubs and activities.

Finally, the district recognizes athletics and other extra-curricular activities are very important for many students. In an effort to improve the facilities, the coaches have requested an upgraded throwing area. Other sporting equipment has also been requested, such as new kickboards and fins for a swim program that will be offered free of charge to students in the summer and be utilized by swim team programs during the school year. The district is also recommending a mentor program for coaches and advisors.

The mandated 20% of our pandemic allocations (\$411765.00) has been reserved for summer enrichment, extended school day, and enrichment programs.

- Summer Enrichment Program offered K-12
- Extended School Day for academic and social activities K-12
- Tutoring for students that need short-term home instruction due to quarantine
- Supplies for summer enrichment programs
- Additional summer days for counseling staff
- Enhanced Throwing area (Track and Field)
- Sporting equipment
- Curriculum Hours for summer planning
- Meals during enrichment programs
- Mentoring program for coaches and advisors

Supporting early childhood education.

Plan Summary:

The SWCS district acknowledges the importance of full-time, in-person instruction for all students, but is particularly important for early childhood education. Due to social distancing mandates, teachers at the early childhood level were required to provide individualized supplies that may have been shared in previous years (e.g., scissors, glue sticks, paint). The district intends to allocate funding in case this is needed again over the next three school years. The early childhood teachers have also requested updated guided reading level books for students at the pre and early reading stages.

- Supplies needed for Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program and kindergarten grade level.
- Bookroom Readers

Other areas of student performance and need.

Plan Summary:

- The district is not utilizing ARP funds for this area.