

ARP ESSER III Funds 2023-2024

The ESSER3 Consultation Team met in June 2021, July 2022, and July 2023 to engage with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input via online form. The team consisted of business professionals, families, school and district administrators, teachers, principals, school leaders, staff and union reps and tribal members. The funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on keeping schools open, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning.

Durant Public Schools will utilize ARP ESSER III funds for facility improvements and infrastructure:

- **Flooring** - Seek to use up to \$500,000 of ARP funding to purchase new flooring, which provides a floor surface that is cleaner and healthier for students and easier to sanitize with COVID – 19 protocols. With the funding used in the latest cycle of ESSER III funds, 95% of the district will benefit from new flooring.
- **Infrastructure expansion** - Seek to use up to \$550,000 of ARP funding to expand the district's alternative education campus to allow for social distancing to serve students who are attending alternative school, including virtual offerings, due to COVID – 19 concerns.

Durant Public Schools will use the 20% of funds reserved under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year. Durant Public Schools will allocate \$717,231.98 million dollars to have:

- **STEM Mobile Unit & Resources/Professional Development** - The district will purchase a mobile STEM unit and equip it to enhance in school and summer learning experiences for students to provide real life application to academics learned in the classroom while closing any achievement gap caused by the COVID – 19 pandemic. All grade levels will have access to STEM-centered educational experiences in a mobile unit designed to accelerate learning in school. In-school accelerated learning is an evidence – based intervention model recognized by the United States Department of Education. The district will partner up with PowerUpEDU, a nation provider of learning resources and professional development to develop this facet of this activity to address learning loss.

The mobile STEM unit will focus on multiple evidence – based intervention strategies including, but not limited to: fostering a strong relationship between students' school connectedness and positive educational outcomes, fostering resilience, monitoring and reflecting on the problem – solving process, and a focus on student learning and the teaching of specific curriculum content. In addition to helping combat learning loss, the mobile STEM lab also enables the district to have a classroom space that allows for classroom social distancing if needed and can serve as a Wi – Fi hub for areas of the community who needs internet access.

- **Summer School** - All grade levels will have the opportunity to engage in enrichment and academic activities to close the gap on summer learning loss.
- **Professional development** in reading, math, and intervention activities for certified staff to implement best practices in accelerating learning and closing the achievement gap.
- **Implement reading intervention** by certified teachers at the elementary level to help students gain and build foundational skills to help close learning gaps as soon as they are detected.
- Provide teachers' **learning resources/supplies** to give flexibility in filling students' academic, social/emotional, mental health needs in response to the COVID – 19 pandemic.

Tutoring & Enrichment Technology Software – After school tutoring and enrichment (extended day) software will be purchased to provide opportunities to help students below grade-level or struggling. These programs will be available 24/7, 365 days a year. The software to be purchased, includes, but is not limited to: Amira, BrainFuse, and Imagine Learning/Odyssey Ware.

Durant Public Schools will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001 (e)(2) of the ARP Act and will ensure that interventions, including but not limited to those implemented under section 2001 (e)(1) of the ARP Act addressing the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

To help with the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, Durant Schools is seeking to use ARP funds for the following:

- **Add 1 – 2 more certified counselors** to staff in order to meet increased student needs.

This is the plan for how Durant Public Schools plans to use the ARP ESSER III Funds. The guidelines from the Oklahoma Department of Education outline 15 possible ways these funds may be spent. To find out more information about these guidelines, you may visit the Oklahoma Department of Education's website or read this document. If you have any questions or would like to leave a comment about this plan, please e-mail safeschools@durantisd.org.