



Use of ARP-ESSER III Funds Plan

In March 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law. ARP dedicated \$122 billion to the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) Fund. This grant is known as ESSER III. The intent and purpose of ESSER III is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus on students.

School District 225 will apply to receive its allocation of ESSER III funds before September 30, 2021, based on feedback from stakeholder groups. District 225's ESSER III allocation is \$1,875,815. These funds are supplemental to District 225's budget and will be used to address the impact COVID-19 has had and continues to have, on secondary schools.

In developing the plan, the District engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders including school and district administrators, teachers and staff, and the Glenbrook community made up of students, families, and community members who do not currently have children in the district. The district engaged with stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English Learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and other underserved students. Further, feedback was received through the District 225 Board of Education Meeting Presentation of the Safe Return Plan, 30-day hearing period to consider community feedback, posting 2021 - 2022 In-Person Return to School Plans on the District Website.

The district intends to use ARP-ESSER funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the extent practicable, consistent with CDC guidance, in order to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning. District 225 will utilize ESSER III funds to address issues that have arisen due to the COVID-19 pandemic. District 225 is required by statute to set aside 20 percent of its total ESSER III allocation to address learning loss. The remaining funds will be spent consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act. It will also be directed toward those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students with disabilities and students from low-income families.

District 225's plan for ESSER III funds may include additional transition staffing to support students with disabilities who qualify for COVID-19 post-secondary transition recovery eligibility or have extended transition services due to learning loss. It will also be used to address additional nursing and homebound instruction needs, providing summer transportation to low-income families to access summer educational services, mental health and wellness activities, a district-wide emergency communication system, and upgrades to improve air quality. ESSER III funds can be used to cover expenses incurred from March 13, 2020, through September 30, 2024.