

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a lasting impact on our students and staff, who endured months of disruption and uncertainty. Our daily routines were upended, school days were altered, and students were forced to adapt to learning and growing under extraordinary circumstances. Throughout the 2020-2021 school year and beyond, as students spent part or all of their days learning from home, it became increasingly clear that the lack of social interaction, consistent supervision, and the essential support typically provided by our schools was taking a toll. We saw a rise in depression, stress, substance abuse, mental health crises, and disengagement with learning among our students.

Thankfully, our district has always prioritized having School Counselors and licensed Social Workers available to support our students and their families in navigating the challenges of school life. The pandemic amplified these needs, which is why we allocated ESSER funds to further support the vital work of our counselors. We recognize that educational recovery from the pandemic is only possible if our students feel safe and secure in their school environment. Our counselors are essential in creating and maintaining this environment across all our schools.

The ARP ESSER funds also allowed us to continue our efforts to improve the learning environment for our students. The final allocation of these funds was spent in June 2024, completing several HVAC projects designed to enhance the overall health and safety of our school environments.