

School City of Hobart: Federal COVID-19 Relief Spending

Across Indiana, \$2.8 billion in federal funding has been allocated to local school districts to help address schools' COVID-19-related needs.

Here at the School City of Hobart, we have been allocated \$8,379,107.69 from three rounds of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding – which is based on the district's share of the state's Title I allocation – and the federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds.

Over the last two years, we developed plans for how to strategically and sustainably deploy these funds to successfully [accelerate student learning, support our educators, make a sustainable impact on innovation across our schools, and update technology and other infrastructure].

Read our complete plans here -

GEER I

- We purchased 300 Chromebooks for our Kindergarten students to provide them with 1:1 device access for in-person and virtual instruction.

ESSER I

- Staffing: ESSER I funded our Director of Social Emotional Learning. The Director of SEL works with counselors and the superintendent to coordinate the district's SEL plan. The plan includes:
 - Providing professional development to staff, students, and the community.
 - Oversight of the alternative education program.
 - Oversight of the district/star level assessment professional development and testing process.
 - Oversight of the SAFE grant program and participation on the SAFE board.
 - Oversight of the district's random drug screening program.
- Technology:
 - Newline Interactive Display: Newline displays utilize distance learning tools that allow educators to continue teaching students productively and keep them engaged in classwork in a virtual setting.
- NISEC Special Education Services:

- The district contributed a share of ESSER I funds to the Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative to support our students serviced by the cooperative.
- Professional Development:
 - Kevin Hines presented “Cracked Not Broken” - The Kevin Hines Story to all staff and students via a live Zoom session.

ESSER II

- Staffing (2021-22 School Year)
 - Director of Student Services: Oversees the Brickie Virtual School. BVS provides fully-integrated instruction for students who cannot and will not return to school due to COVID. The director also helps coordinate credit-recovery programs through BVS. In addition, this person oversees the data warehouse of the Johns Hopkins ABCs to help organize MTSS interventions across the district.
 - Director of College and Careers: Facilitates student graduation pathways and creation of postsecondary plans by ensuring equity and achievement in more than an invitation to early college and careers. This person coordinates transitioning between every level and high expectations of early college and careers. The director assists with student assessment, district-wide data analysis, and supervision of the CCR curriculum. The director also serves students as a liaison between higher-education partners and students, developing individualized learning plans and assisting students with their eligibility for these programs.
 - Mental Health Counselor: This person provides direct mental health counseling to students through responsive services, including conducting mental health assessments, making referrals as necessary, developing individualized student treatment plans, leading individual and group therapy sessions, presenting mental health awareness and wellness workshops to students and other stakeholders, facilitating SEL initiatives, training personnel in mental health awareness, and referring families to appropriate wraparound service providers.
 - Guidance Counselor: This person provides college and career counseling, assists students with goal setting, helps the RTI and MTSS teams support students, and provides direct counseling support through responsive services. This person also consults with stakeholders to enhance their effectiveness in helping students, provides support in student scheduling, tracking, graduation pathways, early college enrollment, financial aid, and working with outside agencies on appropriate wraparound services.

- MTSS Interventionists: Provide academic support to students with push-in and pull-out services throughout the school day. Interventionists interpret data to guide instruction and create goals to target student learning. They provide differentiated instruction in partnership with classroom teachers. They also monitor the progress of student MTSS plans and growth weekly. Seven MTSS Interventionist positions were created at the secondary schools.
- MTSS Aides: Assist the MTSS interventionists and classroom teachers in targeting student learning by implementing academic services and providing differentiated academic support to students. Aides also assist with goal-setting and progress monitoring. Four MTSS Aide positions were created at the secondary schools.
- Instructional Services:
 - Pearson virtual programs support the Brickie Virtual School by offering all-inclusive opportunities to help address learning loss and credit recovery. The program also provides access to enrichment and specialty courses.
 - Equitable Education Services helps to address learning loss through professional development. EES works with district staff on curriculum mapping, core instruction, and instructional priority models for teacher leaders.
 - Nepris is a software subscription that connects our educators and learners with industry professionals, bringing real-world relevance and career exposure. It provides the tools and support needed to bring curriculum lessons to life by virtually bringing industry experts into the classroom.
- NISEC Special Education Services:
 - The district contributed a share of ESSER I funds to the Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative to support our students serviced by the cooperative.
- Computer Lab Upgrades at Hobart High School
 - CTE course lab upgrades (desktop computers and monitors) were purchased to support college and career-ready pathways, including Engineering and Design, Graphics Design, Radio and TV, Computer Science, and Software Development.
- Curriculum
 - Purchased research-based Wilson Foundations reading program in Kindergarten/Special Education classes to address learning loss. The curriculum will ensure critical foundation skills reading/phonics will be taught daily with systematic instruction.

- Purchased Geodes decodable books kits which align with Foundations reading program for all Kindergarten classes based on the Science of Reading to address learning loss and reduce the number of students who may later need intervention. The curriculum will ensure critical foundation skills reading/phonics will be taught daily with systematic instruction.
- Technology Infrastructure
 - Funds were spent on infrastructure upgrades, including adding the data center and replacing the wireless control system to support continued student connectivity for learning.

ESSER III

- Staffing (2022-23 and 2023-24 School Years)
 - Director of Student Services: Oversees the Brickie Virtual School. BVS provides fully-integrated instruction for students who cannot and will not return to school due to COVID. The director also helps coordinate credit-recovery programs through BVS. In addition, this person oversees the data warehouse of the Johns Hopkins ABCs to help organize MTSS interventions across the district.
 - Director of College and Careers: Facilitates student graduation pathways and creation of postsecondary plans by ensuring equity and achievement in more than an invitation to early college and careers. This person coordinates transitioning between every level and high expectations of early college and careers. The director assists with student assessment, district-wide data analysis, and supervision of the CCR curriculum. The director also serves students as a liaison between higher-education partners and students, developing individualized learning plans and providing students assistance with their eligibility for these programs.
 - Mental Health Counselor: This person provides direct mental health counseling to students through responsive services, including conducting mental health assessments, making referrals as necessary, developing individualized student treatment plans, leading individual and group therapy sessions, presenting mental health awareness and wellness workshops to students and other stakeholders, facilitating SEL initiatives, training personnel in mental health awareness, and referring families to appropriate wraparound service providers.
 - Guidance Counselor: This person provides college and career counseling, assists students with goal setting, helps the RTI and MTSS teams support students, and provides direct counseling support through responsive services. This person also consults with stakeholders to enhance their effectiveness in helping students, provides support in

student scheduling, tracking, graduation pathways, early college enrollment, financial aid, and working with outside agencies on appropriate wraparound services.

- Classroom Teachers: To achieve smaller class sizes to help address student learning loss due to COVID, the district created three elementary positions and one secondary position.
 - MTSS Interventionists: Provide academic support to students with push-in and pull-out services throughout the school day. Interventionists interpret data to guide instruction and create goals to target student learning. They provide differentiated instruction in partnership with classroom teachers. They also monitor the progress of student MTSS plans and growth weekly. Six MTSS Interventionist positions were created at the secondary schools.
 - MTSS Aides: Assist the MTSS interventionists and classroom teachers in targeting student learning by implementing academic services and providing differentiated academic support to students. Aides also assist with goal-setting and progress monitoring. Four MTSS Aide positions were created at the secondary schools.
- Instructional Services:
 - Pearson virtual programs support the Brickie Virtual School by offering all-inclusive opportunities to help address learning loss and credit recovery. The program also provides access to enrichment and specialty courses.
 - Equitable Education Services helps to address learning loss through professional development. EES works with district staff on curriculum mapping, core instruction, and instructional priority models for teacher leaders.
 - Nepris is a software subscription that connects our educators and learners with industry professionals, bringing real-world relevance and career exposure. It provides the tools and support needed to bring curriculum lessons to life by virtually bringing industry experts into the classroom.
 - NISEC Special Education Services:
 - The district contributed a share of ESSER I funds to the Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative to support our students serviced by the cooperative.
 - College and Career Program Equipment
 - New equipment was purchased to support the college and career pathway programs at Hobart High School, including Engineering and Design, Graphics Design, Radio and TV, and Photography. Equipment includes new 3d printers, a Laser Engraver, a Vacuform machine, various tools and

devices for Engineering and Design, large format printers for Graphics Design, cameras for Radio and TV, and Photography.

- STEM and Makerspace
 - Furniture, equipment, and supplies were purchased to furnish and supply STEM Labs/Makerspaces in each school to provide opportunities for creative learning for all students at the School City of Hobart.
- Virtual Reality
 - Virtual Reality systems were purchased for middle and high school to support next-level, hands-on learning in virtual environments.
- Kindergarten Chromebooks
- Newline Display Computers
 - Upgraded computers were purchased to support the latest learning opportunities through the Newline Displays in each classroom. These computers support interactive and virtual learning.
- Curricular Materials
 - Adopted and purchased Reading Series McGraw Hill “Wonders” to accelerate learning with the rigor of the current Indiana State Standards with systematic daily instruction.
 - Purchased intervention program McGraw Hill “Wonderworks,” mitigating learning loss within MTSS.
 - Purchased updated Math Envisions 2023 program to accelerate learning with the rigor of the current Indiana State Standards with systematic daily instruction.
 - Purchased additional student Geodes decodable books for all Kindergarten classes based on the Science of Reading to address learning loss and reduce the number of students who may later need intervention. The curriculum will ensure critical foundation skills reading/phonics will be taught daily with systematic instruction. Professional Development for Geodes was purchased for teacher implementation.
 - Purchased Professional Development for the new K-2 Dyslexia Screener and Diagnostic tool Mindplay.

Through our locally-developed plans, we are investing in –

- Staffing. To address the pandemic's unique academic and social-emotional consequences, School City of Hobart has committed COVID relief funds to hire personnel dedicated to meeting the needs of our students.

- Instructional Services. To address both realized and potential learning loss associated with the pandemic, School City of Hobart has committed COVID relief funds to programs that support our existing infrastructure to provide the best possible support and opportunities for our students.
- Technology. To address the pandemic's unique academic and social-emotional consequences, School City of Hobart has committed COVID relief funds to a wide range of instructional technology to support students across the district.

We plan to continue implementing the above mentioned plans through the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. Per federal law, through September 2022, we have to encumber the first round of ESSER funding and through September 2023 and September 2024, respectively, to encumber the second and third rounds of their ESSER grants.

Funds are available for all school districts through a reimbursement process for approved expenses in the spending plan—track School City of Hobart's current uses and reimbursements of these funds [here](#).

For more information on School City of Hobart's federal COVID-19 relief funding, please contact Lori Anderson.