

American Rescue Plan/ESSER III - LEA Plan of Use Narrative

Agency: Sparta Area Schools

2020 - 2021

Recipient Code: 41240

- The LEA Plan of Use Narrative is currently in progress and not ready for submission. The LEA agrees to amend their application at the time the Plan of Use Narrative is complete.

Please describe the extent to which and how 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 reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning:

The District will use ESSER III funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. We will continue to use funding for personal protective equipment and cleaning supply needs, as well as to hire additional staffing, which will help to keep our class sizes small, allowing for better social distancing and improved learning opportunities. Funds will also be used to provide extra social-emotional support and staffing to meet the needs of our students. (speech path, behavior coach, student services director). We will also provide additional professional learning opportunities to our staff. We also enhanced our student information system and added schoology to be able to transition to a virtual learning model if COVID continues to impact our district traditional in seat instructional model.

Please describe how the LEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (see below) 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 afterschool programs, or extended school year:

The District will use NWEA to administer high quality assessments to determine academic needs of students. To implement evidence-based practices, in August 2021 the District offered Professional Learning Community (PLC) training to all certified staff. Over summer 2021, the District utilized Sec. 23 funding to offered extensive summer school programming to all students. We will continue to offer summer programming to our students, and also add additional interventions and supports (academic intervention, behavior coach, and director of student services). These interventions will best assist us in dealing with the post pandemic needs of our students and families as they return to a traditional school year model. The district partners with Camp Roger to allow k-5 students an opportunity for hands on summer learning.

Please describe how the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act.

With input from the District's stakeholders, the District identified best use of the ESSER III funds. By and large, stakeholders wanted funds to be used for additional staffing and support and additional social-emotional support. As such, the District intends to utilize the bulk of the ESSER III funds to support the addition of new teaching positions to lower class sizes and be able to provide more intensive support to students. To address the social emotional needs of students and staff, the District has hired an additional speech path, behavior coach, director of student services, and academic interventionist. Other expenditures include data charges to provide wireless hotspots to families with limited/no internet access, PowerSchool SIS and enhancements to easily transition to remote learning along with staff/student devices.

Please describe how the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions implemented under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (see below) to address 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

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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.

As noted above, the District has/intends to hire additional teaching positions. The District has already hired one English as a Second Language Teacher and intends to hire a second for the 2022/23 school year. The district is vested in promoting the social emotional learning of staff and students as well as addressing post pandemic academic and behavior needs. The director of student services, behavior coach and academic interventionist are working collaboratively with our teaching staff and administration to implement MTSS to best meet all of our students needs during and post pandemic. All of these additional resources will allow the District to respond to the additional needs of our most at risk students by providing tier II and tier III additional supports.