

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Formula Fund Grant

The U.S. Department of Education requires each school division that receives ARP ESSER III funds to submit a plan that describes how it will use the funds. This plan is published to Raleigh County Schools' website: <https://boe.rale.k12.wv.us>.

Introduction

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs over the next three years. Raleigh County Schools has been awarded \$32,087,518.23 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. **Comments about this plan should be submitted to cdaniel@k12.wv.us.**

The primary goal of Raleigh County Schools continues to be to safely offer in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible under the guidelines provided by the Governor's Office, West Virginia Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the West Virginia Department of Education. Raleigh County Schools is planning for a return to in-person learning five days a week for all PreK-12 students beginning August 17, 2021. Our instructional staff will focus on the design and delivery of engaging, in-person instructional experiences that will mirror our instructional approach prior to the pandemic.

We recognize and respect that some families may still be interested in a virtual learning option for the next school year. Raleigh County Schools will be providing a virtual learning option for sixth through twelfth grades during the 2021-2022 school year. We will be partnering with *Proximity Learning*, a nationally known virtual program, to provide this option. *There will be no virtual learning option for elementary students.* Applications for this virtual option can be found on the Raleigh County Schools' website (<https://boe.rale.k12.wv.us>). To be considered for the 2021-22 Fall semester virtual program, parents/guardians will need to fill out this application between the dates of July 12 and July 28, 2021.

Addressing Unfinished Learning While Addressing Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each school division to use twenty percent of its formula funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based interventions. Raleigh County Schools will use approximately \$8,279,018 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

Raleigh County Schools recognizes the impact COVID-19 has had on student success. To support and increase our ability to effectively address the social and emotional needs of students, assess for learning loss and plan and deliver individualized instruction to close achievement gaps in ALL student subgroups; including, but not limited to, Students with Disabilities, students living in poverty, racially and ethnically diverse students and English Language Learners.

For the next three school years (2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24), Raleigh County Schools will dedicate ESSER III grant funds to address overall time loss within the school day, after school and through summer enrichment programs in the following manner:

- Approximately \$860,000 will be used to hire part-time math interventionists for all elementary and middle schools. These interventionists will work with students who are in need of additional support in basic mathematics.
- Approximately \$741,000 will be used to support Community in Schools Liaisons and graduation coaches for our secondary schools. The CIS liaisons and graduation coaches, will support students and families, including low-income students, racial and ethnic minorities, children with disabilities, English learners, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care by locating community resources for the purpose of promoting parent effectiveness and student achievement.
- To support and increase our teachers' ability to effectively address the social and emotional needs of students, assess for learning loss and plan and deliver individualized instruction to close achievement gaps, approximately \$1,152,000 will be used to hire eight additional secondary teachers to lower class sizes.
- Approximately \$1,936,000 will be used to hire nine additional special education teachers to support co-teaching throughout the secondary schools thus increasing access to high quality core instruction for students with disabilities and providing smaller classes where all students can be actively learning.
- Approximately \$233,000 will be used to support extra nursing staff throughout Raleigh County Schools.
- Approximately \$435,000 will be used to hire high school registrars.
- To support student social and emotional learning, approximately \$709,000 will be used to hire two school psychologists and one behavior specialist.
- To assist virtual student learning, approximately \$250,000 will be used to hire a virtual school coordinator.
- Approximately \$1,000,000 will be used to purchase supplemental English Language Arts supplies.
- Approximately \$332,000 will be used to continue summer school programs and hire a full-time summer/after school coordinator.
- Approximately \$332,000 will be used to provide after school programs in all elementary schools as well as support the full-time summer/after school coordinator.

Other Uses of Funds

Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act permits school divisions to use the ARP Act ESSER III funding not reserved to address unfinished learning to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways. Raleigh County Schools will use approximately \$23,808,000 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

- Raleigh County Schools strongly believes the best educational opportunity is provided to our students through an in-person environment, but we recognize and respect that some families may still be interested in a virtual learning option. Approximately \$1,000,000 will be reserved for this program.
- We realize that during the time of COVID-19 many of our students were not able to socialize which caused anxiety throughout our adolescent student body. As students return to five days a week, many will resume with sports and other extracurricular activities that provide the social/emotional support needed to regain personal equilibrium, but some will continue to need added supports. To provide social/emotional support for students who are not interested in traditional extracurricular activities approximately \$140,000 will be dedicated for eSports (electronic sports) throughout our schools.

- Every student and every teacher throughout Raleigh County Schools is assigned a technology device. If the COVID time loss (learning loss) is to be closed, we need to ensure that all devices are maintained and in working condition, approximately \$379,000 will be used to hire computer technicians.
- To assist with student and teacher at-home connectivity, we will join other civic organizations by providing approximately \$500,000 to support broadband throughout our community.
- To ensure all Raleigh County Schools reopen safely and sustain the safe operation of schools, we will use approximately \$22,086,000 of ARP ESSER funds to upgrade facilities.
 - To ensure good air quality in all schools, approximately \$3,450,000 will be spent on replacing windows at both Woodrow Wilson High School and the Academy of Careers & Technology and \$2,850,000 will be used to upgrade HVAC systems at Woodrow Wilson High School, Park Middle, Independence Middle, and Mabscott Elementary schools.
 - To provide a safe environment that allows for social distancing for all students and staff at Shady Spring Elementary School, approximately \$9,000,000 will be set aside for needed building expansions including the addition of nine classrooms to eliminate overcrowded portable classrooms, separation of cafeteria and gymnasium, upgrading the library and STEM areas, enlarging the kitchen, and enhancing the outdoor learning area.
 - To provide social distancing for students at Woodrow Wilson High School, approximately \$6,900,000 will be used to renovate science labs, the art room and consumer science classroom as well as the cafeteria and gym.

Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Raleigh County Schools sought public input and took such input into account. Student, staff, parent, and community input was collected through surveys, Superintendent Central Office Advisory meetings, Parent Advisory committee meetings, student council meetings, subgroup committee meetings, and individual communications received at the school and division planning levels. Stakeholder representation for the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, and other underserved students were included in the development of Raleigh County School's ARP ESSER III plan.

Making the Plan Available to the Public

Raleigh County Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://boe.rale.k12.wv.us> as well as all school homepages.
- The plan was included in the June School Board meeting materials.
- The plan will be included in the July School Board meeting materials and the results of public comment on the plan will be reported.
- Upon request, a parent/guardian who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Allen Sexton, Director of Special Education, at asexton@k12.wv.us or calling at 304-256-4555.
- Upon request, a parent/guardian needing a copy of the plan translated into a different language can obtain this by contacting Sandra Sheatsley, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, at ssheatsl@k12.wv.us or calling 304-256-4500.
- ***Comments regarding this plan should be sent to cdaniel@k12.wv.us.***