



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Section 1: 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**. Stafford County Public Schools (SCPS) has been awarded \$14,228,831.92 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Joy S. Eure, Supervisor of Accounting, at scpsesser@staffordschools.net.

The overall goal of SCPS is to create a safe, engaging environment for students and staff, where students can actively participate in learning, build positive relationships, and demonstrate academic gains while having their physical and social-emotional needs met as we return for the 2021-2022 school year.

Section 2: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

ARP Act ESSER III funds may be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. SCPS will use approximately \$130,000 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies. SCPS prevention and mitigation strategies using ESSER III funds include use of air purifiers, adjusting HVAC systems for optimal air flow and additional cleaning and sanitizing of facilities. Funds will also be used to purchase sanitizing supplies, including hand sanitizer and disinfecting solutions, as well as masks and disposable gloves. Social distancing will be utilized as much as possible while following recommended guidelines from the CDC and the Virginia Department of Health.

Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA 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, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. SCPS will use approximately \$11 million of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning.

SCPS will address learning loss through additional instructional support personnel, summer learning enrichment programs and after school programs. Assessment and enrichment software will also help identify and support students in the areas needed for learning loss recovery.

Section 4: 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. SCPS will use approximately \$3 million of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act. ESSER III funds will be used to support students facing other challenges in addition to learning loss including homelessness, disabilities, and English learners. Other uses include purchasing technology equipment and software to support equitable access to computers and internet for homework and virtual assignments. A community engagement bus will help provide support to students and families outside of school.

Section 5: Addressing Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

ESSER III funds will be used to hire additional social workers to be available for the schools and students to help identify and meet social, emotional and mental needs of the students. Additional instructional support personnel will give more time to address academic needs in the classroom, especially students with disabilities, English language learners and homeless students. Support will be available during the regular school day as well as during after school programs and summer enrichment programs. The programs will focus on learning loss, but will also include aspects to meet the other social, emotional and mental health needs of students.

Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, SCPS conducted consultation with stakeholders including school and district administrators. Parent, staff and community advisory groups provided input during a meeting on July 14, 2021. The public had opportunity to provide input at a public hearing on Tuesday, June 29, 2021 as well as during regularly scheduled school board meetings.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

The plan is available at www.staffordschools.net/page/32560. If you need additional assistance to have the plan in another language or in another format to accommodate a disability, please email sepsesser@staffordschools.net.