

Overview of ARP ESSER III:

The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund was authorized to provide states with funding to support the nation's schools in safely reopening and sustaining safe operations of schools while meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A total of **\$2,315,446** is allocated to Huntley District 158. **\$698,027** of that amount must be utilized specifically to meet the three state-level reservations that support learning loss, summer enrichment, and for after school programming. A list of available funds for all state's school districts are posted on the ISBE website.

Overview of Huntley 158's Use of Funds:

ARP-ESSER III funds will be utilized for several broad purposes, all related to maximizing and supporting student learning. The following areas of focus will be addressed in the ARP ESSER III expenditure plan, with a focus on students needing specific support due to the pandemic.

Stakeholder Input:

Stakeholders were engaged in the decision-making to allocate these funds, via dedicated and existing channels of communication.

- Community and parent feedback relating to specific academic needs was received during the March 9, 2022 Strategic Plan update session. This feedback session was open to all community members, and focused around academic programming and needs. The feedback during this session was applied to decision-making related to ESSER III funds.
- District and building administrators, including special education administrators, had input into the most urgent needs relating to operations, safety and academics. Their feedback contributed to decision-making on the areas of expenditure that were most needed for ESSER III. In addition, program managers overseeing English learners and children experiencing homelessness were directly involved in these discussions in order to ensure that all needs were considered when making decisions about allocations of funds.
- The District administration holds regular meetings with the Executive Boards of the certified and non-certified staff unions, and their continuous feedback about priorities helped to drive decision-making related to the use of the ESSER III funds.
- Additional teacher input has been received through curricular teacher leadership discussions related to Tier 1, 2, and 3 resources.
- The ESSER III grant has been discussed at meetings of the Board of Education, and will continue to be the focus of public updates for the purpose of hearing feedback and sharing information with the community.

Huntley 158's Use of Funds Plan:

The District 158 ARP ESSER III plan for the use of the ESSER III funds is as follows:

- **Increased custodial services and mitigation strategies:** Implementation of prevention and mitigation strategies that are in line with the most up-to-date CDC guidance, to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning. These expenditures will create a foundation of a safe and healthy environment for students as in-person learning continues.
- **Implementation of Student and adult SEL and Mental Health Supports:** This includes implementation of Orange Frog training across the district for the purpose of supporting social emotional and mental health, as well as a positive district and school culture using positive psychology. This research-based approach will positively impact student social emotional health, and provide staff members with the tools needed to contribute to building a positive culture as we continue in-person

learning. Additionally, a focus on providing students with substance abuse support at the High School level will be provided.

- **Supporting Summer learning:** Beginning in the summer of 2021, the District offered all families the opportunity to attend summer learning for learning/credit recovery free of charge. Students identified for summer learning will continue to be able to attend learning recovery free of charge, as ESSER III funds will be used to partially cover the cost of staffing the program.
- **Providing Tier 1, 2, and 3 supports for students:** Student academic needs will be supported via the use of funds to purchase materials to address learning recovery and advancement in Tier 1, 2, and 3. These resources will include a focus on math, literacy, and social emotional learning, and will include both intervention and core resources. Additionally, interventions specifically to support Dual Language and English Learner students will be provided.
- **Understanding students' social emotional and academic learning needs through a MTSS Data Platform:** To best support students' social emotional and academic MTSS needs, a data warehouse is essential so that teachers and staff are best able to respond to students' individual needs with actionable data. ESSER III funds will be utilized to cover this resource.
- **After School Supports for Students:** Providing students with learning opportunities that either extend and enrich the school day will allow students to continue to grow academically and socially and emotionally. These supports will include student tutoring and enrichment opportunities for students.