

**ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF III ARP FUND
(ESSER III) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III
USE OF FUNDS PLAN**

Under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III ARP Fund (ESSER III), the Department awards grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. LEAs must provide services to students and teachers in public schools as required under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

- **What is the purpose of the ARP ESSER III funds?**

The purpose of ESSER III is to award subgrants to school districts such as PHESD 144 address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools. The aim of ESSER III funding is to enable PHESD 144 to develop a plan for the “safe return to in-person learning and continuity of services for the purpose of promoting transparency and accountability for funds usage” by the district.

- **How much funding is available to PHESD 144?**

A total of \$13,091,698 is available to the District, with a minimum of 20% reserve (2,283,346) for learning loss; as well as three State-level reservations for evidence-based activities and interventions that respond to students’ social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, and migratory students.

SEA Reserve-Learning Loss (\$1,196,404)

The academic impact of lost instructional time. Not less than 5 percent of the State’s grant must be reserved to carry out, directly or through subgrants or contracts, activities to address the academic impact of lost instructional time by supporting the implementation of evidence-based interventions.

SEA Reserve-Summer Enrichment (\$239281)

Not less than 1 percent of the State's grant must be reserved to carry out, directly or through subgrants or contracts, the implementation of evidence-based summer enrichment programs.

SEA Reserve- After-School Programs (\$239281)

Not less than 1 percent of the State's grant must be reserved to carry out, directly or through subgrants or contracts, the implementation of evidence-based comprehensive after-school programs.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How does PHESD144 know its grant amount?**

Grant allocations are posted on ISBE's web page at https://www.isbe.net/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc={A961858C-F081-4F7E-94AD-6C0654D4883F}&file=Total-ESSER-Allocations.xlsx&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1.

- **What is the funding period for ARP ESSER III grants?**

Funds may be used for allowable activities from March 13, 2020 (with approved pre-award) through Sept. 30, 2024.

- **What are the federal requirements around the District ESSER III Use of Funds Plan?**

PHESD144 must engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of its plan for the uses of ARP ESSER III funds. As there is no prescriptive process for garnering community input, PHESD144 has chosen to utilize a community town hall meeting, PTO consultations, Meet the Teacher presentations, parent/teacher conference surveys, Superintendent's Community Tea, and stakeholder surveys to solicit meaningful input for the ARP ESSER III Grant.

To encourage participation, the availability of the Town Hall Community meeting, and the Superintendent's Community Teas was advertised via email, Community digital bill boards, District Board Meetings, as well as the district website.

PHESD144 must provide its plan for the uses of ARP ESSER III funds in an understandable and uniform format. PHESD144 Plan for the Uses of ARP ESSER III

funds will be posted to the district's website, under the Business Department's Financial information section, within 30 days of receiving its ESSER III Notice of Grant Award.

- **Are the ESSER III funds required to be used for specific purposes?**

Yes, PHESD144 per grant guidelines must expend a minimum of 20 percent of their grant funds to address "the academic impact of lost instructional time" (aka learning loss). PHESD144 can spend these funds on:

1. Evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning, comprehensive after school programs, Comprehensive Reading Program, tutoring, and student transportation.
2. Ensure interventions respond to students' academic, social, emotional and mental health needs and address the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on student populations as defined in ESEA, Title I, Part A, students from low-income families.

- **Are there recommended uses of ESSER III funds that will assist school districts in addressing the impact of the COVID pandemic and disruptions leading to learning loss?**

While keeping in mind the purpose and requirements under ESSER III related to accelerating student learning, it is strongly encouraged that school systems plan how to use these "one-time" federal funds expeditiously over the entire covered period to facilitate a more comprehensive long-term approach to learning acceleration. This process may include aligned strategies that are currently part of our District's current plans and strategies. Refer to the below list for examples:

- Professional Development: comprehensive Reading Academies, high-quality instructional materials, professional development stipends.
- Extended Instructional Time: After School Programs, high-dosage tutoring, summer learning.
- Staffing: tutors, reduced class sizes, small group instruction, after school enrichment programs, instructional coaching and leadership.
- Facilities: ventilation, cleaning, HVAC systems, specialized instructional spaces, additional spacing to allow for reduced class size.
- Mental Health and Behavioral Supports: social workers, at-risk coordinators, additional counseling services, teacher training and programming, wrap-around and community partnerships.

- **What are some of the allowable uses of the ARP ESSER III funds?**

ESSER funds are designated to be used in any or all designated areas, which include addressing learning loss, providing professional development, improving indoor air quality, providing social and emotional supports, updating and providing technology, and other areas addressing health standards such as:

- Universal and correct mask wearing
- Physical distancing and modifications necessary to achieve the same
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Facility cleaning and maintenance
- Contact tracing and isolation/quarantine
- Diagnostic and screening testing
- Vaccination efforts
- Accommodations for students with disabilities
- Coordination with local health officials

PHESD144 Use of Funds

Prairie-Hills School District 144 plans to use its ESSER III funds in four major areas:

- Academic Supports
- Social Emotional Supports
- Health and Safety
- Capital Improvements

PHESD144 plans to offer summer programs to address any instructional gaps/ as well as provide enrichment for those students identified. All students of PHESD 144 are encouraged to attend enrichment and/or the summer academic programs based on their identified needs, all at no cost to our students and families.

Transportation will be provided to all attending students, at no cost to families. Students with identified needs will be recommended to attend the After-School Academic program to address any reading or math deficiencies revealed through formative/summative assessments. Students that demonstrate a need for extra instruction, and a place to complete homework with support services will be able

to attend District homework assistance and/or tutoring services during the After-School hours.

Enrichment, After-School programs (STEM, Mentoring Program, SEL, and Science Programs) will be made available to all interested students, as well as those recommended by staff, parent(s)/guardians.

Funds will also be used to pay stipends for additional staff members that can assist in the classrooms with additional instructional support under the direct supervision of certified staff members for students identified with deficiencies and/or students demonstrating a need for enrichment or acceleration.

Additional professional development and trainings will be available to staff in areas of trauma, the social emotional needs of students and staff based on the impact of the COVID -19 pandemic.

Structural upgrades, internal changes, and environmental, electrical, and ventilation/filtration upgrades, will be made to Chateaux and Markham Park Schools, along with additional space in both schools to assist with class size reduction, adequate distancing, and improved accessibility, while offering and maintaining a healthy safe environment for students, staff and community.

Additional surveys and meetings will take place throughout the 2022-2023 school year to provide updates related to ESSER III fund usage. Please stay tuned to our website for posted Board Meetings and our District website for ESSER III Use of Funds updates at www.phsd144.net