



**Return to Learn and ARP/ESSER III Plan**

# American Rescue Plan/ESSER III Overview

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plans (ARP) was signed into law. As part of the law, the United States Department of Education will provide \$121.9 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III Fund).

East Prairie 73 has been allocated \$929,570 in ARP-ESSER III funds. Twenty percent of this allocation must be designated to address learning loss. A requirement of receipt of these funds is the development of a Return to Learn Continuity Plan and a Use of ARP-ESSER III Funds Plan.

This document provides information and details of both plans.

Stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide input on the Use of Funds plan for 30 days following this presentation to the Skokie School District Board of Education.

# Introduction

East Prairie 73 is planning for full in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. The District will provide the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services based on guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health and the CDC. The District's Return to Learn Continuity Plan is intended to be a living document that outlines efforts to support all students while being responsive to potentially changing guidance to health and safety guidelines for schools.

# Safety Measures and Protocols

The District generally is following all Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education and CDC guidelines. Health and safety initiatives include:

## **Social distancing:**

- Signage around the building denoting physical distancing in common areas
- Lunch in cafeterias and alternate spaces to maintain social distancing of a minimum of six feet between students
- 3-foot minimum distance in classrooms, to the extent possible
- Maintenance and supervision of separate health stations for individuals who are symptomatic in the schools

## **Virus Mitigation:**

- All students, staff and visitors to the school will be mandated to wear masks regardless of vaccination status
- Sanitizing stations provided within classrooms and common areas of the school building → Purchase supplies and equipment to sanitize and clean facilities
- Use of approved disinfectant with increased frequency of disinfection for high-touch

surfaces including desktops, door handles, etcetera

# Safety Measures and Protocols cont'd

## **Contact Tracing:**

→ Unvaccinated individuals who have spent a cumulative 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 6 feet of a COVID positive individual will need to quarantine.

## **COVID Testing Opportunity:**

→ SHIELD Testing is available to all unvaccinated students once weekly onsite at EPS.

## **Nurse Monitoring of COVID Symptoms:**

→ Students and staff are no longer asked to self-certify or have temperature checks taken each day as these mitigation measures were found to be ineffective.

→ The nurse will monitor individuals for the CDC and IDPH's modified symptom list as follows:

- ◆ Cough
- ◆ Sore Throat
- ◆ Fever

- ◆ Loss of taste/smell
- ◆ Diarrhea
- ◆ Headache

# Instructional Supports

**As we return to full-time in-person instruction, the following supports have been/will be implemented:**

- Offer summer school to all students
- Provide high quality in-person teaching experiences using essential outcomes
- Provide in-school Reading and Math acceleration for students in need of supports beyond core curriculum
- Provide weekly professional development to support the needs of all students

# Social Emotional Supports

Pandemic schooling has taken an emotional toll on students and staff. Schools will play a vital role in helping students process their experiences and any trauma potentially caused by the pandemic. As we return to full-time in-person instruction, we will:

- Implement evidence-based SEL curriculum (RULER)
- Provide social/emotional/behavioral support to students by way of social work in school
- Provide professional development for staff in supporting students with social/emotional learning

# ARP-ESSER III Use of Funds

The purpose of ESSER in general is to award subgrants to school districts such as East Prairie

73 to 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 school districts 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.

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

# **Proposed Use of Funds for District 73**

Social Studies Curriculum Adoption - \$70,000

Math Curriculum Adoption - \$85,000

STEM Updates - \$50,000

Summer School - \$70,000

Professional Development - \$132,000



Technology - \$111,819

NTDSE Early Childhood Alliance - \$1,500

Science Curriculum Materials - \$75,000

Prekindergarten Curriculum - \$20,000

# Opportunity for Stakeholder Input

Stakeholders wishing to provide input on the Use of Funds plan may submit comments to [info@eps73.net](mailto:info@eps73.net) by November 30, 2021.