

## ESSER III ARP Plan

1. The extent to which and how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;

Covington-Douglas Public Schools plans to utilize ARP ESSER III funds to Prepare, Prevent, and/or Respond to the Covid-19 impact in our district. Through consultation and following CDC guidance and overall use of funds to ensure safety for student and staff remain our focus. These funds will be utilized to remain open and operate schools for in-person learning throughout the entirety of the school year. Funds will be used to mitigate risk to allow for proper social distancing, implement preventive measures such as sanitation and cleaning, improved ventilation, provide the safest transportation options possible, secure the technology needed to move to distance learning if needed to respond to grade or group specific outbreaks as they might occur and provide tutoring (Before school, during school, after school and/or during the summer as is determined to be of need on a monthly basis in response to the ever changing needs of our students) to compensate for learning loss and take actions to ensure the retention of highly qualified teachers throughout the pandemic. Our goal is to remain open for in-person learning for the entire school year and these funds will be utilized to assist us in achieving that goal. As with all “goals” the reality of this pandemic is that the possibility exist that we could need to respond to outbreaks with limited quarantines or across the board actions. These funds will be focused on our goal of staying open to in-person learning while funds will also be used to be prepared for the possibility of remote learning.

Due to the nature of the rate of delivery of funds through federal funding streams, high priority needs such as cleaning supplies and materials and counseling services were and continue to be purchased with highly flexible and immediate funding sources such as LEA funds and ESSER I funds. Through continued consultation at parent in-person meetings, online surveys, and properly posted open meetings it has been determined that to properly respond to the ever evolving pandemic CD Schools needed to add a second maintenance/janitorial employee to meet the increased cleaning and ventilation needs of the school. All ESSER I funds were and will be spent on cleaning supplies and equipment.

Proper ventilation of classrooms includes allowing and encouraging staff members to conduct classes with doors and windows open to allow for increased ventilation. This clearly leads to significantly higher utility bills which will be offset using ESSER funds.

Insurance costs have risen dramatically during the pandemic. Covid driven inflation will be met using ESSER funds. ESSER funds will be used to offset these dramatic increases.

As a school district that covers just under 300 square miles and has a large percentage of the student body that lives over 1.5 miles from school Covington-Douglas Schools has a need for additional buses to allow for the proper separation of students during an outbreak and/or to allow for greater social distancing within the busing system. ESSER II and III funds will be used to address these bus needs and allow the school to adapt to an ever changing landscape brought on by outbreaks of the virus within the school district. We used first year ESSER funds to add a route bus for increased bus availability in case we need it based on Covid outbreaks. We will also use ESSER funds to combat the Covid driven rise in fuel prices.

Learning loss will be attacked by having before school, after school, and/or during school tutoring. Outside of school hours tutors will be paid \$35/hour out of ESSER funds. During school tutors will be paid standard salary rates. The tutoring plan will be evaluated monthly and adjusted to meet the identified needs of the student population benchmark scores and grades within the classroom will be used to drive these decisions that relate to the timing and duration of the proposed tutoring. Summer programs will be paid at the same rate and driven by the same student need model. An outside contractor will be employed to serve as an instructional coach to assist teachers in focusing on the learning loss gaps and maximizing our remedial times focus on specific needs.

Incentive pay for all employees will come from ESSER funds to ensure the retention of teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, janitors, and secretaries that are working in jobs where the possibility of coming into contact with the Covid-19 virus is very high. These employees have proven to be the rock solid back bone of the Covington-Douglas School district and ESSER funds will be used to incentivize them to fight through this pandemic with us.

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## ARP ESSER III Use of Funds Plan

2. How the LEA will use the funds it reserved under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act [20% of ESSER ARP Act formula funds] to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year;

Covington-Douglas Public Schools plans to utilize ARP ESSER III funds to Prepare, Prevent, and/or Respond to the Covid 19 impact on our district.

- After School Tutoring Program for Students
- Summer School for Students
- Increased Focus on identifying learning gaps and specific interventions to meet those needs
- During school tutoring focused on identified learning loss
- Tutors will be paid \$35/hour outside school hours and the standard rate during school hours.
- Purchase “Library books” reading material to supply each room with reading materials that are readily available and allow for increased availability of books to help fill the reading gap caused by Covid.
- Tutoring start times and duration will be adjusted as the academic needs change and the pandemic number of infections varies. Teachers to carry out the tutoring will be determined using benchmark testing so that the tutors are being provided at the appropriate grade level in the correct subject areas.
- Failed tutoring attempts at CD Schools have historically failed because of a lack of viable school transportation to tutoring sessions. Due to the serious transportation issues created by a school district of just under 300 square miles, special care and attention will be paid to providing tutoring at times that allow for transportation to be provided and/or additional transportation will be added to the districts transportation plan to fit the needs of tutoring. ESSER funds will be used to offset Covid related inflation on diesel prices to allow this transportation to be provided.
- Within EESER III \$121,796.53 is budgeted for this tutoring over a three-year period. The LEA will supplement these funds on an as needed basis. Learning losses due to the pandemic have at first measure appeared to be quite large for our student population and the need for remediation and tutoring abundantly clear. At initial budgeting these funds have been evenly distributed for each year but the identified student needs will drive when and how this money will be expended.

3. How the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with the uses authorized in section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act; and

Covington-Douglas Public Schools plans to utilize ARP ESSER III funds to Prepare, Prevent, and/ or Respond to the Covid 19 impact on our district. The committee recommends spending the ARP ESSER III funds:

<b>ESSER III - ARP Funds Available</b>	<b>\$ 435,960.95</b>	<b>ESSER II Funds Available</b>	<b>\$ 44,492.57</b>
<b><i>FY 24</i></b>		<b><i>FY24</i></b>	
OSIG Insurance Increase	\$ 33,748.43	OSIG Insurance Increase	\$ 44,492.57
OGE Electrical and Diesel Inflation	\$ 30,000.00		
Covington Utilities Water and Gas Inflation	\$ 28,000.00		
Hazard/Retention Pay for staff	\$ 132,384.89		
Technology for virtual and increased spacing	\$ 20,000.00		
Learning Loss Tutoring (Salary, Software, Ha	\$ 116,827.63		
<b><i>FY 25</i></b>			
OSIG Insurance Increase	\$ 75,000.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

4. How the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to those implemented under section 2001(e)(1) [20% set-aside], will respond to the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care and migratory students

Covington-Douglas Public Schools plans to utilize ARP ESSER III funds to Prepare, Prevent, and/ or Respond to the Covid 19 impact on our district. An overwhelming majority of our student population falls into one of the student subgroups listed above. The committee recommends the following to address learning loss in student subgroups.....

- Students from low-income families will be given all necessary technology to carry out all requested assignments, remediation, and tutoring.
- Students with disabilities will be provided with additional learning opportunities including access to after school tutoring and summer learning programs.
- Students in foster care will be provided the necessary technology and tutoring to recover from learning loss.
- All students will be allowed to express their needs and concerns through the schools counseling services.
- Counseling is an overarching need for students. LEA funds will be used to provide the most up to date and versatile counseling for students.