

ARP ESSER III Funds

The ESSER3 Consultation Team met in July 2021 to engage with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input via online form. The team consisted of business professionals, families, school and district administrators, teachers, principals, school leaders, staff and union reps and tribal members. The \$7,068,902.28 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. McAlester Public Schools will purchase:

1.

- **HVAC** - Seek to purchase \$3.1 million in HVAC systems, so every building used in the district will have new HVAC systems installed. This will provide 30% cleaner air than with our current system. We will also install an air purifier/ionizer which will remove viruses/bacteria from the air, and will provide a safer environment for our students and staff.
- **Energy Efficient Windows** - Seek to use \$200,000 of ARP funding to purchase Energy efficient windows which will open to allow fresh air into the classrooms at Emerson and Will Rogers.

2. McAlester Public Schools will use the 20% of funds reserved under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act 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 after school programs, or extended school year. McAlester Public Schools will:

- Seek to allocate almost 2 million dollars to have:
 - **District Wi-Fi Expansion** - District busses will be utilized as mobile Wi-Fi access points allowing students to access from multiple locations.
 - **Stem Camp** - All grade levels will have access to STEM-centered educational experiences during the summer.
 - **Summer Reading Program** - Students from Kindergarten through 6th grade will receive a bag of 4 books at the beginning of summer, and are encouraged to read the books. The Buffalo Bookmobile will make designated stops throughout the summer at specific times for students to exchange books.
 - **Summer School** - All grade levels will have the opportunity to engage in enrichment and academic activities to close the gap on summer learning loss.
 - **Transitional Boot Camp** - Designed to bridge the gap for students transitioning to a new building. Students will be encouraged to attend at the end of summer before the next school year. Students will learn their surroundings and have time for additional activities and skill work.
 - **Tutoring & Enrichment** - After school tutoring and enrichment (extended day) with a 10:1 ratio to help students below grade-level or struggling in class.

McAlester Public Schools will ensure that interventions, including but not limited to those implemented under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act addressing the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic,

including students from low income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students

- **Additional Counselors** - We will add four additional counselors to our staff. This will place a counselor at each of the following levels: grades Pre-K & K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. In grades 7-12, the counselors will loop with their students allowing the students to have the same counselor for 6 years.
- **Licensed Mental Health Providers** - LMHPs will work with principals and counselors to have that next level of emotional support for our students. There will be a LMHP at each of the following levels: grades 9-12, grades 5-8 and grades Pre-K through 4.
- **RTI Teachers** - Grades Pre-K through 8 have a designated person to provide tiered support to struggling students.
- **Tech Cadre** - Teachers from every site will train with our Instructional Technology Director to implement best practices for digital learning strategies and programs that will help with Distance Learning for our students.
- **Attendance / Resource Officers (CAT team - Chronic Absentee Team)**. - Chronic Absenteeism is more rampant than ever before. These people would be responsible to track student attendance, contact families including home visits, work with teachers and counselors doing everything we could to get students back on track and back into the classroom.

3. McAlester Public Schools will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act by seeking to around spend \$450,000 the next three years on the following:

- **Camera** - Cameras installed in each classroom will allow for the determination of social distancing and aid in contact tracing.
- **PPE supplies** - PPE supplies will help us sanitize and maintain teacher and student spaces.
- **ACT Assessments** - To see if we are on target and are our students where they should be.
- **Student connectivity** - Hot spots and locations around the district
- **Student devices**. - Every student will have a device

4. Stipends for professional development in preparation for handling the pandemic including our procedures for:

1. Taking temperatures
2. Mask
3. Room cleaning and disinfection
4. Hand sanitizer
5. Social distancing.

(H) Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.

(Q) Developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for

the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.

Stipends for the next three years for the entire staff of 450 employees ranging in the total amount of \$1.3 million dollars for the following Professional development:

- Beginning of the year PD on Covid and safety procedures.
- For effectively maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff by confirmation of staff immunization.
- PD on technology training to improve Distance Learning for students who are quarantined or not able to attend in person school.

This is the plan for how McAlester Public Schools plans to use the ARP ESSER III Funds. The guidelines from the Oklahoma Department of Education outline 15 possible ways these funds may be spent. To find out more information about these guidelines, you may visit the Oklahoma Department of Education's website or read this [document](#). If you have any questions or would like to leave a comment about this plan, please use the "Post a Comment" feature below this document.