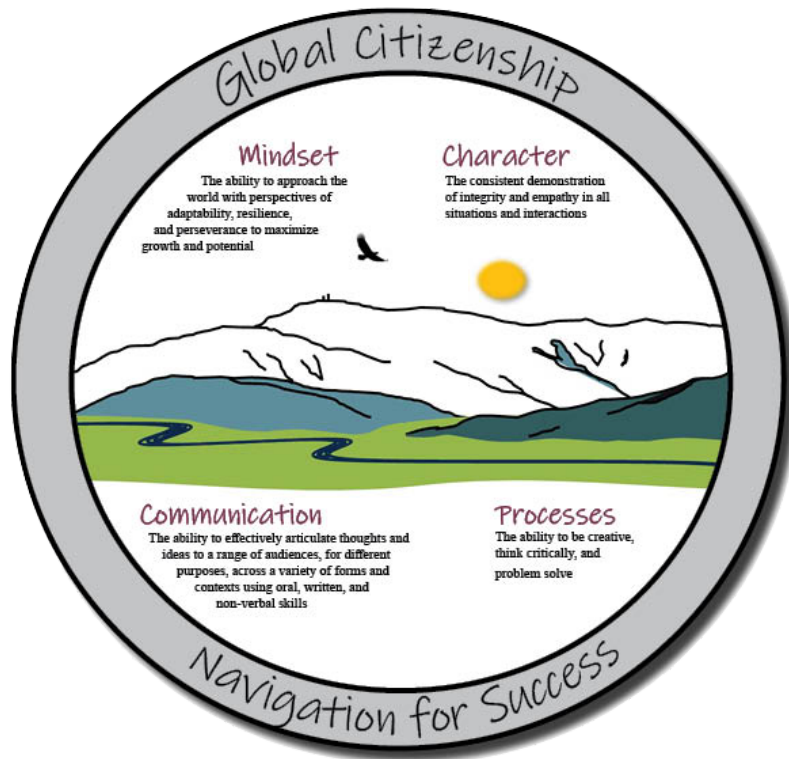


Albany School District ESSER II and III Funds

SAU9 Portrait of a Learner



Recommended Allocations

December 30, 2022

Background

Governor Chris Sununu declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020 and ordered all K-12 schools closed as of March 15, 2020. That closure required us to immediately pivot and provide education in ways unimaginable just a few days earlier.

The Conway School District, which serves students from Albany, responded quickly and within a week had devices in students' hands, schedules for food delivery established, and developed systems for delivering education remotely. As schools worked to reopen for the 2020-2021 school year, challenges and additional costs associated emerged. In response, the federal government allocated funds through the ESSER I - CARES/SPSRF, ESSER II - CRRSA, and ESSER III - ARPA. The two largest allocations, ESSER II (CRRSA) and ESSER III the American Rescue Plan. These funds are to be used to address needs specifically resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and meet specific requirements. These allocations will provide the Albany School District with resources needed as it responds to challenges resulting from the pandemic. ESSER II - CRRSA funds are available through 9/30/2023. ESSER III - ARPA funds are available through 9/30/2024.

This document is intended as an overview of the Albany School District's proposed expenditures of ESSER II and ESSER III funds.

Definitions

- **CARES Act:** Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act; This is a federal relief measure signed into law March 20, 2020. Funds must be allocated by September 30, 2022.
- **CRRSA Act:** Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act; This is a federal relief measure signed into law on December 27, 2020. Funds must be allocated by September 30, 2023.
- **ARPA:** American Rescue Plan; federal relief measure signed into law March 11, 2021. Funds must be allocated by September 30, 2024.
- **ESSER:** Elementary and Secondary Schools Educational Relief, refers to any one of the three funds allocated to by the CARES Act (ESSER I), CRRSA Act (ESSER II) and ARPA (ESSER III or ARP ESSER).

- **SPSRF 1:** Supplemental Public School Response Funds; These funds were designated to provide relief and support for unanticipated costs associated with the safe opening and operation of schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **SPSRF 2:** These funds allowed for application for COVID-19 expenses in excess of \$200 per pupil that had not been reimbursed by other available sources.
- *Albany did not qualify for any SPSRF2 funds.
- **LEA:** Local Education Agency, specific to New Hampshire; This is the school district.
- **SEA:** State Education Agency, specific to New Hampshire; This is the state Department of Education.

ESSER Allocations

- **CARES Act (ESSER I):** \$256.91
- **SPSRF:** \$19,400
- **CRRSA Act (ESSER II):** \$2190.92
- **ARPA (ESSER III):** \$4925.30

What can these funds be used for?

Approved uses of funds vary between ESSER II and ESSER III (see Appendix 1 ESSER comparison). In general, though, ESSER funds can be used for:

- Educational technology purchases including Internet connectivity, hardware, devices, software, etc.
- Supplies and services to enable remote learning
- Mental health services and supports
- Diagnostic assessment tools to gauge students' knowledge and skills as well as potential gaps in learning
- Professional development opportunities for district staff to increase capacity around high quality instruction, assessment, learning environments
- Supplies and services to sanitize district facilities and provide access to personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Planning and coordinating systems for addressing long-term closures including how to provide meals, technology for online learning, carrying out legal requirements, and providing educational services

- Procedures to coordinate systems to improve district preparedness and response to COVID-19
- After/before school enrichment programming beyond what is currently provided
- Access to tutoring and programming outside of school days and hours
- Addressing loss of opportunities to learn
- School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards and support student health needs.
- Inspecting, testing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, and upgrading projects to improve indoor air quality in school facilities including HVAC systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement

What CAN'T these funds be used for?

- Building new school facilities
- Substantially reducing local support for public K-12 education
- Expenses that are not specific to preventing, preparing, or responding to the impact of COVID-19

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since March of 2020, we have navigated the unique challenges of providing education during a pandemic. We continue to respond in a flexible manner that is aligned to our strategic plan. We have learned much from this experience and as a result education will never look quite the same as it did prior to the pandemic. While the availability of vaccines provided hope, we continue to experience a summer surge of cases which tells us this pandemic is not yet over. We know that the academic and social emotional impacts of this pandemic will continue into the future. Therefore, this plan has been developed to leverage the available resources to address identified needs now and respond to those that are discovered in the future. This plan should, and will, change as we respond to the new conditions and needs of our students.

PLAN GOALS:

1. Increase student growth and achievement by providing high quality learning experiences through which students develop mindsets, character, communication, and thinking skills necessary for them to achieve regardless of the pathway chosen while addressing losses in opportunities to learn
2. Engage with our community to partner in supporting our students and remove barriers

Proposed ESSER II and ESSER III Allocations

This document overviews plans at the current time. It is important to note that the plan will continue to be revised as conditions and the needs of our students change.

Allocations:

CRRSA ESSER II - \$2190.92

ARPA ESSER III - \$4925.30

Additionally, there is a requirement that a minimum of 20% of all ESSERII and ESSERIII funding be dedicated to supporting lost opportunities to learn. In Albany, we have budgeted 100% of the funding to provide students access and support needed to address lost opportunities to learn.

Enrichment Programming - Students continue to learn outside of school days and hours. These funds are designed to provide students in kindergarten through grade 8 with access to enrichment/learning activities during vacation periods and the summer months. This will also create opportunities for students to explore Career and Technical Education pathways.

Tutoring We are aware that the pandemic has led to a loss of opportunities for many students to learn which resulted in gaps in achievement. Access to free tutoring will allow for individualized support to address gaps in learning resulting from disruptions caused by COVID-19 and provide continuity of education.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Links to emergency funding for schools documents from NH DOE site

[NH DOE Emergency Funding For Schools](#)

U.S. Department of Education American Rescue Plan Fact Sheet

https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf

If you have feedback or comments, please contact:

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