

ROGERS CITY AREA SCHOOLS

1033 W Huron Avenue
Rogers City, MI 49779

Nicholas Hein, Superintendent

Telephone (989) 734-9100 or 734-9150

October 18, 2021

To the Following: Rogers City Area School District residents, Rogers City Area Schools MEA and ESP Union Employees, any Rogers City Area School District Civil Rights Organizations, and any Rogers City Area School Tribes:

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) has been allocated to local school districts to budget. Rogers City Area Schools, from our current understanding, will receive roughly \$1,000,000 of criterion based ESSER III funding to budget and expend through June 30, 2024.

The attached document below, **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FACT SHEET AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN Act of 2021, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (ARP ESSER)**, serves as meaningful consultation for you on Rogers City Area Schools behalf. When reading, you will notice that pages 2 and 3 discuss the specific use of these funds.

If anything is unclear within the document, please do not hesitate to contact Superintendent Nicholas Hein or Federal Funding Director, Steven Kowalski. We will do our best to clarify any questions that you might have. If we cannot immediately answer your question(s), we will email our Cares Act contact at The Michigan Department of Education and then relay their response to you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and the information below. If you have any ideas on how the district should expend these funds, please contact the aforementioned administration by October 27, 2021 via their emails, nicholas.hein@rcashurons.org and steven.kowalski@rcashurons.org. Thank you for your ideas in advance.

Sincerely,

Mr. Nicholas Hein
RCAS-Superintendent

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FACT SHEET
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (ARP ESSER)

This document outlines the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, enacted on March 11, 2021. ARP ESSER provides a total of nearly \$122 billion to States and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. In addition to ARP ESSER, the ARP Act includes \$3 billion for special education, \$850 million for the Outlying Areas, \$2.75 billion to support non-public schools, and additional funding for homeless children and youth, Tribal educational agencies, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives.

To address the immediate needs of schools and districts, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) will begin making ARP ESSER funds available to States this month.

ARP ESSER OVERVIEW

State Allocation of ARP ESSER Funds

- A State must subgrant not less than 90 percent of its total ARP ESSER allocation to local educational agencies (LEAs) (including charter schools that are LEAs) in the State to help meet a wide range of needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic, including reopening schools safely, sustaining their safe operation, and addressing students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs resulting from the pandemic. The State must allocate these funds to LEAs on the basis of their respective shares of funds received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) in fiscal year (FY) 2020.
- The ARP ESSER Fund includes three State-level reservations for activities and interventions that respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups, including each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care:
 - 5 percent of the total ARP ESSER allocation for the implementation of evidence-based interventions aimed specifically at addressing learning loss, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs.
 - 1 percent of the total ARP ESSER allocation for evidence-based summer enrichment programs.
 - 1 percent of the total ARP ESSER allocation for evidence-based comprehensive afterschool programs.
- A State may use up to 1/2 of 1 percent of its total ARP ESSER allocation for administrative costs and emergency needs as determined by the State to address issues related to COVID-19.

Reservation for Homeless Children & Youth

The ARP ESSER Fund also requires the Department to reserve \$800 million to support efforts to identify homeless children and youth, and provide them with comprehensive, wrap-around services that address needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and allow them to attend school and participate fully in all school activities. The Department will award these funds expeditiously, and will work to coordinate these new resources with supports provided through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as well as other ARP ESSER Fund activities targeting homeless children and youth.

LEA Use of ARP ESSER Funds

Of the total amount allocated to an LEA from the State's ARP ESSER award, the LEA must **reserve at least 20 percent of funds to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and ensure that those interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups** (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care).

Remaining LEA funds may be used for a **wide range of activities** to address needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic, including any activity authorized by the ESEA, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA), or Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins CTE). Specifically, ARP ESSER funds may be used to develop strategies and implement public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on reopening and operating schools to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, as well as:

- coordinating preparedness and response efforts with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19;
- training and professional development on sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases;
- purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the LEA's facilities;
- repairing and improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards;
- improving indoor air quality;
- addressing the needs of children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth;
- developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs;
- planning for or implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students and providing technology for online learning;
- purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, connectivity, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment) for students that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including students from low-income families and children with disabilities;
- providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools and the hiring of counselors;

- planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after-school programs;
- addressing learning loss; and
- other activities that are necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of and services, including continuing to employ existing or hiring new LEA and school staff

LEA Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan

An LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds must, within 30 days of receiving the funds, make publicly available on its website a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Before making the plan publicly available, the LEA must seek public comment on the plan.