



## LEA ARP ESSER III Plan

### **Section 1: Introduction**

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. Lynchburg City Public Schools has been awarded \$28,413,544.25 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Amy Pugh, Deputy Superintendent at [pughat@lcsedu.net](mailto:pughat@lcsedu.net) or to [esser@lcsedu.net](mailto:esser@lcsedu.net)

### **Section 2: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies**

ARP Act ESSER III funds may be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. Lynchburg City Schools will use approximately 15.92% of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below.

- Upgrades and repairs to our HVAC systems and purchase of air purifiers and filters to improve indoor air quality, and
- Purchase of bulk cleaning supplies, equipment, and Personal Protective Equipment

### **Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning**

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA to use twenty percent of its formula funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs. Lynchburg Schools will use approximately 58.50% of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

- Personnel, technology, and instructional supplies to support LCS' New Virtual Academy
- Salaries and benefits for teachers and other staff to ensure continuity of services
- Addition of Interventionist positions to support instruction including small group remediation
- Professional development and implementation of evidence-based instructional programs for literacy and math
- Expansion of tutoring / remediation programs during the regular school day
- Expansion of comprehensive extended learning programs offered before school, afterschool, summer, and/or Intersession (William M. Bass Elementary only).
- Instructional software to support virtual and hybrid learning including SeeSaw, EdPuzzle, and Smart Music
- Instructional supplies to support data analysis and student progress monitoring

#### **Section 4: Other Uses of Funds**

Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act permits school divisions to use the ARP Act ESSER III funding not reserved to address unfinished learning to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways. Lynchburg City Schools will use approximately 21.25% of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

- Stipends for mentors to support new teachers / hires
- Tuition reimbursement to support hard to fill positions and endorsements
- Facility lease, contracted services, furniture and fixtures for LCS' new Virtual Academy
- Expansion of city-wide broadband services in partnership with City of Lynchburg
- Additional 14 passenger vans to support student transportation needs
- Expanded communication systems to address school safety needs

#### **Section 5: Addressing Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

The ARP Act permits school divisions to use funds to address students' academic, social, emotional and mental health needs. Lynchburg City Schools will use approximately 4.33% of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to expand mentoring and mental health wraparound services as described below.

- Professional development resources / consultation for staff members on proactive and positive classroom management
- Mentoring program for students to address mental health and trauma
- Set-aside funding for contracts with community providers for mental health and other wraparound services for students (not Medicaid dependent)
- Additional resources to support bullying and violence prevention efforts
- Additional Behavior Coaches to provide student supports

#### **Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment**

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Lynchburg City Schools conducted consultation in the following ways:

- We held multiple meetings throughout the months of May-September to inform stakeholders about allowable uses of funds and to engage all stakeholders in the process of creating our ESSER III plan. These meetings included the following stakeholders: district and school administrators (including special education administrators), principals, assistant principals, academic coaches and other school staff. In addition, we provided resources for administrators to share with teachers, students, and families and opportunities for meetings with school leadership teams to talk about their needs and priorities for the ESSER III plan.
- We provided the LCS Community with the opportunity to participate in a survey to collect feedback. Staff could also submit questions and comments to [esser@lcsedu.net](mailto:esser@lcsedu.net).

- Finally, we provided regular updates on LCS' Return to Learn plans at LCS Board Meetings and work sessions. The Board Meetings are streamed live and available on-line at LCS YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/LynchburgCitySchools>

### **Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public**

Lynchburg Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted on <https://www.lcsedu.net/back-to-school>.
- Upon request, the plan can be made available in multiple languages and in an alternative format.