



Greenville County Public Schools

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ARP ESSER 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**. Greenville County Public Schools (GCPS) has been awarded **\$7,435,604.60** in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Alicia Hargrove, Director of Business and Finance, at 434-634-3748 or via email at ahargrove@gcps1.com.

Greenville County Public Schools has worked closely with Crater Health District and followed, and will continue to follow, the mitigation strategies and guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). GCPS remains committed to safely returning to in-person learning 5 days per week. GCPS also recognizes that there has been an academic impact on our students as a result of lost learning time during the mandatory shut down of schools. GCPS also recognizes the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students have also been impacted. Providing a safe, positive learning environment where all students and staff can adapt, create, collaborate, think critically and meet the challenges of an ever-changing society continues to be our mission.

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. Greenville County Public Schools will use approximately **\$2,874,014.50** of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below.

- Purchase of additional buses to reduce the amount of students on each bus
- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, students, and visitors; and
- Purchase desk shields and store excess furniture to allow for social distancing in classroom

GCPS also has funds allocated in the following funds to address prevention and mitigation strategies: CARES ESSER, CARES ESSER GEER, and CRRSA ESSER II. Funds in these applications will address the following:

- Improved Air Quality (HVAC, boilers, windows, etc.)
- Touchless Toilets and Sinks
- Additional Cleaning Services
- Health/Mitigation supplies (thermometers, face coverings, table dividers, etc.)
- Cleaning/Sanitation Supplies (Electrostatic Sprayers, cleaning solution, hand sanitizer, hand soap, cleaning wipes, etc.)

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. Greenville County Public Schools will use approximately \$1,935,184.48 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

- Before/After Bell/XCell EPIC STEM GES/BES
- Extended school day (EPIC STEM) WMS
- Instructional Technology
- Reading Support (Grades 6-12)
- Data Analysis Tool

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. Greenville County Public Schools will use approximately \$2,626,405.62 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

- Additional Chromebooks for students
- Wireless internet access points
- Employee Sign-in Software
- Communication Specialist
- Math Specialist
- School Test Coordinators

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

Greenville County Public Schools will operate on a five day a week school schedule for any student who wants in person instruction, and Greenville County Public Schools will partner with Virtual Virginia and Edgenuity for any student who wants a virtual learning option for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Greenville County Public Schools will offer in person after-school remediation services for students in Grades K-12. Greenville County Public Schools will also provide tutors at each level K-12 to implement targeted interventions during the school day to all students as needed, 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.

Greenville County Public Schools will provide division-wide professional development to all staff regarding Social & Emotional Learning (SEL). Teachers and instructional staff will incorporate SEL strategies in lessons and student interactions as needed. GCPS will continue to partner with Wyche Counseling Services, Inc. to provide counseling services as needed to students and staff. Greenville County Public Schools will continue to provide a nurse at each school. Designated staff will oversee comfort rooms and assist administrators when responding to potential cases of exposure. Greenville County Public Schools will open cafeterias using limited capacity schedules to maintain at least 6-foot social distancing between all students and staff while eating or drinking. Tables and chairs will be disinfected between each meal shift. Athletics will follow the guidelines established by Virginia High School League and recommendations by the Crater Health District. Extracurricular and after school activities will follow all mitigation strategies and procedures that are required during the regular school day.

Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Greenville County Public Schools conducted consultation in the following ways:

- With stakeholders, a virtual Community forum was held on August 11, 2021 from 6-7 PM. Students, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and parents from multiple parent advisory committees were invited to participate and were in attendance (Title I, Special Education, and the Comprehensive Plan Committee).
- By providing the public the opportunity to provide input at the Greenville County School Board meeting held on August 9, 2021 and soliciting feedback for the Community Forum on August 11th.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

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

- The plan is posted at: www.gcps1.com
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Rita Williams, Director of Pupil Personnel, at 434-634-3748 or via email at rwilliams@gcps1.com.