



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. Mecklenburg County Public Schools has been awarded \$11,572,580.84 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Mr. Paul C. Nichols, Superintendent.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Mecklenburg County Public Schools provided continuous instruction using in-person, hybrid, and virtual delivery models. For the 2021-2022 school year, parents/guardians selected their preference of in-person or virtual learning for their student/s.

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. Mecklenburg County Public Schools will use approximately \$3,075,000.00 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies through the purchase of:

- Air purifiers for classrooms
- PPE and cleaning supplies
- Hepa filters for buses
- A central HVAC system to improve air quality
- Windows for improved air circulation.

MCPS will continue to practice proper cleaning protocols at each building to ensure the safe return of all students. To maintain safe and healthy schools, cleaning will take place several times throughout the day.

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 afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. Mecklenburg County Public Schools will use approximately \$4,000,000.00 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below:

- Additional personnel to support students' academic needs including remediation tutors, class size reduction teachers, paraprofessionals, reading interventionists, behavior interventionists, and assessment specialists.

- After-school remediation to provide more individualized, targeted instruction to address learning loss as a result of COVID-19.
- Virtual Virginia will be used for students who have chosen to continue their education using a virtual learning model.
- Professional Development will provide teachers the opportunity to learn and apply new knowledge and skills into their instructional delivery.
- Computers will be purchased for students to support the 1:1 initiative to ensure that students have access to learning tools both in and out of the classroom.
- Online resources as well as materials and supplies will help students to independently practice concepts to gain mastery. They will also support student learning by allowing teachers to enhance and expand lesson materials.
- Online textbooks will provide students access to learning materials outside of the classroom.

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. Mecklenburg County Public Schools will use approximately \$4,497,580.84 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

- Sensors for freezers to monitor doors for proper closure
- Air conditioning for buses
- AP training for teachers to fill-in teacher turnover gaps created because of COVID-19
- Classes for Visual Impairment Endorsement
- Furniture for flexible learning spaces. This will support social distancing as well as reinforce proper mitigation techniques to help teachers meet the needs of their students through targeted instructional delivery and design.
- Materials and Supplies for Remediation
- Point of Sale Software to eliminate contact between individuals at school-sponsored events
- Service fees for mobile hotspots
- Tuition reimbursement for teachers working on licensure
- Bottle-fill stations
- Clear-Touch boards
- Computers

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

MCPS will utilize funds to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of its students. The hiring of additional personnel and after school tutors will directly impact students as these individuals will work in small instructional settings to provide more individualized instruction to fill the learning gaps caused by the pandemic. The purchase of computers and hotspots will ensure equal access for all students to their curriculum and resources

to support their learning, regardless of socioeconomic status. In addition, MCPS has purchased a socio-emotional learning program for school counselors to use with students as well as sensory kits to use with students in need. Funding used for facility upgrades will provide a safe, supportive, comfortable working environment for students while reducing virus transmission as a result of using prevention and mitigation strategies.

Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Mecklenburg County Public Schools conducted consultation through surveys and meetings. Members of the following stakeholder groups were invited to participate in the surveys:

- Students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions.
- Civil rights organizations; and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students; and
- The public

All feedback received was reviewed and input taken into account.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

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

- The plan is posted at <http://www.mcpsweb.org>;
- The plan is available in English and Spanish;
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact MCPS Central Office to request translation; and
- 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 the MCPS Central Office at (434) 738-6111.