

American Rescue Plan/ESSER III - LEA Plan of Use Narrative

Agency: Vassar Public Schools

2020 - 2021

Recipient Code: 79150

- ☐ The LEA Plan of Use Narrative is currently in progress and not ready for submission. The LEA agrees to amend their application at the time the Plan of Use Narrative is complete.

Please describe the extent to which and how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning:

VPS adopted an updated COVID-19, contact tracing, BINAX testing, quarantine, and isolation policy on Nov. 9, 2021. The testing portion was reduced from 7 days to 3 days of testing. PPE supplies (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, fogging disinfectant, wipes, gowns) have been purchased with general funds and supplied by the State. All campus buildings have a no visitor policy to reduce chances of exposure. We continue to take temperatures of all students and adults at entry and on every bus. Air purifiers have been installed, and we continue to follow a disinfecting fogging regiment, every four hours "touchpoint" wipe down daily, as well as health forms completed by staff daily. VPS ordered masks with plastic windows specifically for students four years through 1st grade. VPS has three health rooms that allow privacy and a place for sick students or exposed students a place to be until a parent is available for pick up. There is fifteen trained BINAX testing staff who have received two additional pieces of training and have completed the required assessments. These health room staffs have been funded through the general fund for the past two years.

Please describe how the LEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (see below) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year:

VPS ran a successful summer program for grades K-12 last summer. The program started immediately at the end of last school year and ran for ten weeks. The students engaged in STEAM activities, SEL lessons, and academic support. The Blue Water Thumb Youth for Christ ran an afterschool program immediately after summer programming that provided activities and educational support for middle school-aged students. VPS just applied for the before and after school grant with the Blue Water Thumb Youth for Christ organization to provide Classroom Champions and academic support for grades K-5 for fifty students. This program will be implemented in Jan. 2022 through grant funds or ESSER III if needed. The 6-12 building has data that shows our middle school students have fallen behind in reading and math, so an additional instruction intervention period will be integrated into the second semester for target students to receive further instruction time in specific content areas.

Please describe how the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act.

VPS conducted a community survey to gather input on the use of ESSER III funds. The highest percentage (60.3%) of votes were for air conditioning of all instructional spaces. The next item to receive votes (52.1%) was in technology, and we plan to update all existing computer labs and continue to replace outdated Chromebooks and instructional technology as well as infrastructure to handle the increased use of bandwidth and daily maintenance of equipment. The next area that received votes (43.3%) was developing an outdoor pavilion and classroom. Finally, the areas of summer learning, tutoring before and after school, and improving instructional materials all received approximately (30%) of the votes. VPS is purchasing educational materials to fulfill the curriculum adoption cycle and reviewing science materials for the elementary program. Subscriptions to IXL and Illuminated have also been purchased to support academics. In addition, VPS has

American Rescue Plan/ESSER III - LEA Plan of Use Narrative

Agency: Vassar Public Schools

2020 - 2021

Recipient Code: 79150

adopted an e-sports pilot program to buy gaming computers and training for the second semester.

Please describe how the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions implemented under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (see below) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and 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.

VPS conducted a community survey to gather input on the use of ESSER III funds that included stakeholders with students from low incomes, of color, English learners, disabilities, homelessness, foster care, and students of neglect. VPS utilized the 31O grant to hire a registered nurse and a student support supervisor to ensure that social, emotional, and mental health needs were addressed. To continue to offer before and after school activities, VPS with the Blue Water Thumb Youth for Christ organization wrote the MDE PA87, section 1001 grant to service fifty students grades K-5. The 6-12 building is also providing after-school tutoring second semester. The data has shown the 6-12 students are struggling in math and reading, so an additional instruction intervention period will be integrated into the second semester for target students to receive further instruction time in specific content areas.