

American Rescue Plan/ESSER III - LEA Plan of Use Assurances/Certifications

Agency: St. Ignace Area Schools

2020 - 2021

Recipient Code: 49010

- ☒ Please certify that the LEA has engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and gave the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of the plan.

All items must be checked

- ☒ • Students
- ☒ • Families
- ☒ • School and District Administrators (including Special Education Administrators)
- ☒ • Teachers, Principals, School Leaders, Other Educators, School Staff, and their Unions
- Must select at least one
- ☒ • Tribes
- ☐ • Civil Rights Organizations (including disability rights organizations)
- ☒ • 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
- ☐ • None of these are present or served within the LEA boundaries
- ☒ The LEA certifies a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan was/will be posted to LEA website within 30 days of funds being allocated.
- ☒ The LEA certifies it has/will meet the Reservation to Address the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time requirement in ARP ESSER III (20 percent of such funds to address learning loss).

The LEA certifies it has/will meet the Maintenance of Equity for High-Poverty Schools requirement in ARP ESSER III, if applicable.

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ Exempt from Maintenance of Equity per Statute

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

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- ☐ 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:

St. Ignace Area Schools is considering various options on how to use the ESSER III funding. Some of these options include:

*hiring an additional special education teacher at the K-8 level. Currently one teacher spans multiple students-this would make a more manageable case load and better individualize educational services at this critical area.

*hiring high school teachers during their prep time to teach additional sections of various classes. This strategy reduces class size again allowing for better learning and limiting COVID exposure

*hiring another bus driver. This would expand our routes from two to three. Fewer students would be on each bus and less time would be spent by students on the bus. Both would reduce COVID exposure.

*hiring a teacher to provide virtual instruction at a local level. Currently, all virtual instruction is through MVHS. Having a teacher on staff would allow students better access to assistance when needed and hopefully make virtual instruction more successful for the student.

*hiring additional supervisors for breakfast and lunch time so that students can be better dispersed throughout the building during these times and again have less exposure.

This is a non-exhaustive list of options that are under consideration at this time.

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:

In order to help with the learning loss that has occurred over the past two years, St. Ignace Area Schools will again implement a summer school program for the summers of 2022 and 2023. We will offer a comprehensive program to our student population. The summer school program will begin after school ends four days a week for 6-8 weeks. Both students and teachers would still have access to some break before school resumes in the fall. Busing would be provided for students, and each student would have access to breakfast and lunch every day of summer school.

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

Considerations on how to spend remaining ESSER funds would include hiring paraprofessional(s) to assist in classrooms with the most significant academic needs. Another consideration would be to hire a part time principal to assist in dealing with the many socioemotional behavioral issues of our student population.

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

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families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

St. Ignace Area Schools is comprised of low income families, students of color, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, and children of foster care. Because of the poverty level in our school district, both of our school buildings have implemented the community eligibility provision for our lunch programs. All students have access to free lunch every day. In the 2020-2021 school year, 56 percent of our student population is native American. Fourteen percent of our student population receives special education services, and that percentage continues to increase although our overall student population numbers continue to decline. As we implement interventions, St. Ignace Area Schools will ensure that the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of all students is of top priority.