

Somerset

Plans for the Use of ESSER III Funds:

The United States Department of Education (USED) is requiring two plans from all recipients of ESSER III funds:

- 1) A plan for the safe return to in-person instruction** and continuity of services
The requirement for this plan is likely met by your **District Reopening Plan** submitted to DESE in August of 2020, along with any subsequent amendments (see Tab 3 Assurances). It will need to be revisited and revised as necessary every 6 months, including soliciting stakeholder input and considering changes to CDC guidance.
- 2) A plan for the Use of ESSER III Funds**, based on broad stakeholder input, and addressing the following:
 - The district's **prevention and mitigation strategies**, including extent district has adopted CDC recommendations (**Step 4.4**)
 - How the district will use its **20% reservation of ESSER III funds to address loss of instructional time with evidence-based interventions (Step 4.2 and Tab 6, Budget)**
 - How the district will spend the remainder of its ESSER III funds for **allowable expenditures (Tab 5) and budget (Tab 6)**
 - How the use of ESSER III funds will respond to the **academic, social, emotional and mental health needs** of all students, especially **those disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (Tab 4.2, Tab 4.3)**, including:
 - students from low-income families
 - students of color
 - English learners
 - students with disabilities
 - students experiencing homelessness
 - students in foster care
 - migratory students
 - students who are incarcerated
 - other underserved students

This application, when fully and thoughtfully completed, along with your District Reopening Plans, will constitute the plans required by USED. These plans must be published on your website and must be accessible to families in a language they understand, either translated in writing or orally, as well as in an accessible format for those with disabilities.

You should expect that DESE will be collecting data and other information from you as a result of implementation of your plans for and use of ESSER funds.

Step 4.1 of 4.4	ESSER III regulations require that the stakeholder groups below be meaningfully consulted as part of the planning process for use of ESSER III funds. Which of the following groups have you consulted with? (check all that apply)	If you have not yet consulted with this group in planning for use of ESSER III funds, when and how do you plan to get their input?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Students	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Families	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School and District administrators, including special education administrators	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School leaders	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teachers	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other educators	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School staff	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unions representing educators and school staff	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribes*	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations)*	Consultation with the local SEPAC to seek input from families of students with disabilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.*	

*To the extent present in or served by the district

TIP: The cells in the right column will be red until you either 1) check the box next to the stakeholder in the left-hand column or 2) write your plan to consult the stakeholder group in the left-hand column.

Step 4.2 of 4.4
Evidence-Based Strategies, Interventions, and Supports:
 Describe how ESSER III funds, including the required 20% reservation, will be used to respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs through *evidence-based* interventions, how progress will be measured, and how/if chosen interventions address disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underserved subgroups. Select from the following list of evidence-based interventions and provide a narrative at the bottom of this step for any of your district's evidence-based initiatives that are not listed. **Note: Your district's 20% reservation to address loss of instructional time must be spent on evidence-based interventions.**

Enhanced Core Instruction	Our district is using ESSER III funds for this strategy	This strategy will address pandemic-related learning loss/disproportionate impact	What data will you use to measure progress?	Does this strategy/intervention address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underserved student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, students from low-income families, students with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care)? If yes, please explain which group(s) are being served, what impact is being addressed, and how this strategy/intervention will provide support.
Expanding access to full-day, high-quality prekindergarten	Yes	Select	Enrollment and in-district assessments, including kindergarten readiness assessments	Expanding our PreK program will allow us to service more students for a longer period of time. Increasing instructional time for more students will be address learning regression.

Purchasing and/or expanding use of high-quality, aligned instructional materials (any content area) and associated professional development	Yes	Yes	Data from assessments such as MCAS, Acadience, and Star Math	Through analysis of local and state assessment data, we are seeing that our high needs students have increasing learning gaps in ELA and Math. The purchase of high-quality, aligned instructional material will provide direct support to students within specific standards identified that have regressed.
Professional development for teachers and administrators re: culturally responsive teaching	Select	Select		
Screening assessments and associated professional development (e.g., early literacy screening)	Yes	Yes	Data from SEL screening assessments will be used to identify students in need and to provide targeted supports.	All students, including those in major underserved subgroups (low income and students with disabilities) will be supported through this strategy. Students who are struggling with SEL as a result of COVID-19 or other reasons will be provided support through counselors, psychologists, and/or wraparound services.
Expanding access to career-technical education (including "After Dark" district/vocational partnerships), innovation pathways, and advanced placement courses (including fee subsidies and teacher training)	Select	Select		
Extending the school day/year and prioritizing student access to additional time by student need	Select	Select		
Tutoring programs and support, including early literacy tutoring (including training paraprofessionals) and peer tutoring programs.	Yes	Yes	We will monitor progress by analyzing quarterly and semester grades, in-district assessments, STAR Reading and Star Math, MCAS scores, and attendance data.	This will be available to all students, including those from underserved student subgroups such as low-income and students with disabilities.
Developing or strengthening data cycles to facilitate and inform student learning and associated professional development and support personnel	Select	Select		
Early college programs, particularly those focused on students underrepresented in higher education	Select	Select		
Targeted Student Supports	Our district is using ESSER III funds for:	This strategy will address pandemic-related learning loss/disproportionate impact	What data will you use to measure progress?	Does this strategy/intervention address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underserved student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, students from low-income families, students with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care)? If yes, please explain which group(s) are being served, what impact is being addressed, and how this strategy/intervention will provide support.
Developing or expanding high quality co-teaching and inclusion models for students with disabilities and associated professional development	Yes	Yes	Student achievement data (report card grades, MCAS), survey data following professional development, and classroom walkthrough (learning walks) data and feedback	This strategy directly addresses the impact of COVID-19 on students with disabilities. Expanding and enhancing the co-teaching model will provide additional support for students with disabilities.
Acceleration academies (during school year vacations) and summer learning opportunities for individualized instruction and enrichment	Yes	Yes	Student progress of those participating in the summer acceleration academies will be monitored and compared to those students who did not participate for growth and achievement.	Through analysis of local and state assessment data, we are seeing that our high needs students have increasing learning gaps in ELA and Math. The purchase of high-quality, aligned instructional material will provide direct support to students within specific standards identified that have regressed.
Language support programs, including dual language and heritage language programs (students learning in-home/native language) and associated professional development	Select	Select		
Community-based afterschool programs for parents, including citizenship and ESL classes	Select	Select		
Dropout prevention and recovery programs	Select	Select		
Talent Development and Staffing	Our district is using ESSER III funds for:	This strategy will address pandemic-related learning loss/disproportionate impact	What data will you use to measure progress?	Does this strategy/intervention address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underserved student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, students from low-income families, students with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care)? If yes, please explain which group(s) are being served, what impact is being addressed, and how this strategy/intervention will provide support.
Academic support staff, including academic coaches, interventionists, student teaching residency programs, paraprofessionals	Select	Select		
Diversifying the educator workforce through recruitment and retention strategies	Select	Select		
Strategies to staff hard-to-staff schools and positions with high-performing educators	Select	Select		
Increasing staff and opportunities for arts, enrichment, world languages, athletics, and elective courses	Select	Select		
Increasing high-quality common planning time for teachers and academic support staff	Select	Select		
Developing leadership pipeline programs for schools	Select	Select		
Labor-management partnerships to improve student performance	Select	Select		
Conditions for Student Success - Social/Emotional and Mental Health Supports	Our district is using ESSER III funds for:	This strategy will address pandemic-related learning loss/disproportionate impact	What data will you use to measure progress?	Does this strategy/intervention address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underserved student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, students from low-income families, students with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care)? If yes, please explain which group(s) are being served, what impact is being addressed, and how this strategy/intervention will provide support.

Increasing personnel and services to support holistic student needs, including school guidance and adjustment counselors, nurses, psychologists, and/or social workers	Yes	Yes	We utilize annual surveys with students, staff, and families to track things such as SEL, resilience, and school belonging. We will analyze and compare these data to previous years to monitor progress.	
Building/strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations to increase student/family access to services for mental/physical health and well-being	Select	Select		
Working with community-based organizations that provide enrichment during the school day and/or out of school time	Select	Select		
Arranging for wraparound services to be provided at schools	Yes	Select	Student measures, including class achievement, daily attendance, discipline data, and graduation rates, will be monitored to determine the effectiveness of this strategy.	
Engaging community partners to build capacity among educators and support personnel to implement equitable and culturally responsive learning environments	Select	Select		
Create transitional programs, partnering with community based organizations, for students with mental health or behavioral-related absences returning to school	Select	Select		
Parent-teacher home visiting programs to build positive relationships between home and school	Select	Select		
Facilities improvements to create healthy and safe school environments	Select	Select		
Other Interventions/Strategies/Supports <i>Use this section to describe evidence-based strategies your district will fund with ESSER III that are not listed above.</i>		This strategy will address pandemic-related learning loss/disproportionate impact	What data will you use to measure progress?	Does this strategy/Intervention address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underserved student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, students from low-income families, students with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care)? If yes, please explain which group(s) are being served, what impact is being addressed, and how this strategy/intervention will provide support.
		Select		
		Select		
		Select		
		Select		
		Select		
		Select		

Step 4.3 of 4.4 **Equitable Use of ESSER III Funds**

How is your district taking educational equity into account when planning for expending your ESSER III funds?
For example,

- 1) allocating funds both to schools and districtwide activities based on student needs, and
- 2) implementing an equitable and inclusive return to in-person learning by, for example, avoiding over-use of exclusionary discipline and creating a positive and supportive learning environment for all students.

ESSER III funds will be allocated to all schools as well as districtwide activities based on student needs. For example, funds will be allocated to schools in order to support the district's strategic goals and individual school improvement plans. For example, funds will be used to support the expansion of the district-wide preschool program, the expansion of literacy and math support in all elementary schools, and providing additional mental health services at the district's only middle school. Finally, funds will also support the implementation of various afterschool and summer activities that support learning loss in a positive and supportive learning environment.

Step 4.4 of 4.4 **CDC School Safety Recommendations**
This information will come from your District Reopening Plan as well as any supplemental/ revised reopening policies for your district.

TIP: Note that your district is not required to adopt [CDC school safety recommendations](#) to receive ESSER III funds. This data is being collected for reporting purposes.

CDC Recommendation		Does your district have a policy or policies on this topic?	If "Yes," is it described in your District Reopening Plan?	If you have a policy but it is not described in your District Reopening Plan, please briefly describe here.
1	Universal and correct wearing of masks	Yes	Yes	
2	Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)	Yes	Yes	
3	Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Yes	Yes	
4	Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Yes	Yes	
5	Contact tracing, isolation, quarantine in collaboration with health departments	Yes	Yes	
6	Diagnostic and screening testing	Select	No	
7	Efforts to provide vaccination to school communities	Select	No	
8	Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies	Yes	Yes	
9	Coordination with state and local health officials	Yes	Yes	



Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Funding

Addressing Learning Loss for Students with and without disabilities (\$369,000)

- 2 Literacy/Math Intervention teachers for FY24
- Paraprofessionals and Registered Behavior Technicians
- Co-Teaching Professional Development
- Summer 2022 Acceleration Academy
- Tutoring

Preschool Expansion (\$236,000)

- Teacher and Paraprofessionals for FY23 and FY24
- Planning and Curriculum Development

Addressing SEL Needs (\$132,000)

- School Adjustment Counselor
- SEL Professional Development and Assessments

COVID response (\$25,000)

Instructional Materials (\$175,000)

- K-5 Math resources
- Instructional Technology

Elementary Schools Window Replacements (\$506,000)

MTRS (\$40,000)

Total: \$1,483,000

Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) II Funding

Addressing Learning Loss for Students with and without disabilities (\$468,000)

- 3 Literacy/Math Intervention teachers for FY22 and FY23
- Special Education program review

Addressing SEL Needs (\$75,000)

- School Adjustment Counselor
- Comfort Dog Start-Up Costs

Instructional Technology(\$42,000)

Elementary Schools Window Replacement Study (\$20,000)

MTRS (\$41,000)

Total: \$646,000