

HANOVER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



200 Berkley Street
Ashland, Virginia 23005-1399
Phone: (804) 365-4500
www.hcps.us

*Michael B. Gill, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools*

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**. Hanover County Public Schools (HCPS) has been awarded \$8,341,833 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Amanda Six, Director of Finance, who can be reached at asix@hcps.us or 804-365-4503.

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. HCPS will use approximately \$989,833 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below.

HCPS is using a large portion of the ESSER II allocation to purchase additional personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, and other medical related items. ESSER III funds will be deployed to implement a touchless onboarding system for new employees as well as purchasing additional furniture for the division that is more adaptable for social distancing or made of a material that is able to be sanitized to our standards.

Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA to use 20 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. HCPS will use approximately \$2,552,000 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

HCPS plans to address learning loss by deploying additional reading support in schools through itinerant reading specialists who will be allocated based on data supporting additional temporary need. Additionally, HCPS plans to work on contract extensions of key instructional support staff in secondary schools such as department-based leaders as well as math and literacy coaches, which will allow for more support in directing teachers on how to craft targeted course work to help students recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Additionally, HCPS has deployed ESSER III to hold elementary class size below targets to allow for more individualized instruction.

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. HCPS will use approximately \$3,600,000 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

HCPS will also utilize approximately \$3,600,000 to replace student devices at the end of the grant cycle. HCPS initially purchased more than 17,000 devices utilizing local and CARES Act funding. Those devices will need to be replaced during the ESSER III grant cycle. Due to the expedited rollout of the student devices, utilizing federal funds with the first replacement plan allows for time to develop a sustainable replacement for the second replacement cycle. This will be accomplished through spreading device replacement across multiple years and realignment of existing funds within our approved technology plan.

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

HCPS has allocated approximately \$1,200,000 of ESSER III funding to hire eight additional resource teachers to create a fifth resource block at each elementary school. This allows for elementary teachers to have additional planning time each week to better support student instruction while also allowing for time for elementary students to focus on social-emotional learning curriculum, spend more time outside, and continually develop fine motor skills through our resource activities.

Additionally, social-emotional and mental health needs have been a priority throughout the pandemic as HCPS has implemented social-emotional learning curriculum, mental health screening, and added additional behavioral support specialists as well as school social workers. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs of our staff and students were a main focus of our work and new resource allocation. This focus has allowed HCPS to deploy ESSER and local dollars quickly in ways that align with the recommendations of our Mental Health Initiatives Task Force, as well as our Profile of a Hanover Graduate and Long Range Plan.

Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, HCPS conducted consultation in the following ways:

- With stakeholders, including: students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff through establishing a request and vetting process, analyzing data collected from students and families as well as deploying the Budget Advisory Focus Group for additional input
- By providing the public the opportunity to provide input at a public hearing in July 2021 as well as October 2021 on the budget during Hanover County School Board meetings as well as an ESSER III public hearing at the Hanover County Board of Supervisors.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

HCPS has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at http://hcps.us/departments/business_operations/h_c_p_s_e_s_s_e_r_i_i_i_s_pending_plan;
- The plan is available in multiple languages as requested;
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Amanda Six at 804-365-4503 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 Amanda Six at 804-365-4503.