

ACSD Local Use of Funds Plan
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction &
Continuity of Services 2021-2022



- 1. How will ARP ESSER funds 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?**

The Aurora City School District has provided in-person learning for approximately 80% of its students for the 2020-21 school year. We will be welcoming back the remainder of our students for the 2021-22 school year requiring additional staff and intervention services. Additionally we will need to fund the remaining portion of the lease purchase of chrome books for all students K through 12. Extra staffing will help with classroom size for social distancing, while extra intervention will support students in need of intervention. A small portion of the funds may be utilized for cleaning and sanitizing protocols.

- 2. How will the LEA use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act 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 after school programs, or extended school year?**

As the majority of our students have received in-person instruction every day of the week or parallel online instruction, we do not have extensive lost instructional time. However, we will run summer reading and math academy programs for any students needing extra support in grades K through 3 in the summer of 2022 through 2024. Additionally, we will be providing high school summer school and credit recovery programs during

this period. Increased math and reading tutor personnel will support the RTI/MTSS process for students in need of those services.

3. How will the LEA spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act?

Remaining ARP ESSER funds will be spent on two years of the chrome book lease purchase. Staffing will be expanded to include additional teachers, tutors, and a school psychologist. Funds for Extended Learning Plan, as well as math/reading specialist support will provide intervention for our most at-risk learners.

4. How will the LEA ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions implemented under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act 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

The Aurora City School District uses a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) to monitor and respond to the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of its students. District and building teams include administrators, coordinators, teachers, school psychologists, counselors, and district (and out of district) mental health counselors as well as a district behavior specialist. The teams monitor data which includes academic testing and behavioral patterns to determine necessary supports needed in any manner or area to insure student success and well being. This process will help us identify students at highest levels of need and also create/utilize supports that are needed.

5. Briefly describe the extent to which the LEA intends to use ARP ESSER funds to promote remote learning.

We are not using the ARP ESSER funds to promote remote learning; however, we are supporting all district students with access to online learning through the chrome book purchase.

**6. Describe the LEA's plan for addressing learning loss by:
administering and using high-quality assessments to assess students' academic progress and meet students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction; implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students; providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment; and/or tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.**

The Aurora City School District is not planning to utilize distance or online learning for the majority of our students. We will utilize our MTSS process to monitor progress including the use of high quality assessments such as Aimsweb, F & P testing, SRI, District created and approved common assessments, internally created diagnostic assessments, as well as state and national tests to track and monitor the progress of our students. The three tiers of the MTSS will be used to provide research based intervention to meet the needs of the students and to provide information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students.

- 7. Describe the uses of funds for developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators and other staff.**

A portion of the funds will be utilized to support the physical and mental health of our students and staff. We added staffing in terms of elementary teachers and specialists in order to provide more social distancing at the necessary grade levels. Additionally, support services for students in the area of mental health were addressed by added hours to the district contract with Children's Advantage, as well as increased school psychologist staffing.

- 8. Describe how ARP ESSER Funds have been/will be used for other activities for maintaining the operations and continuity of services in the LEA and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA.**

A portion of the funds will be used to maintain our chromebook lease for all student devices, as we are 1:1 K-12. This investment will allow our district to continue educational services even in the event of short or long term school building closures due to the pandemic. The plan is to have added staff from ARP ESSER funds eventually be absorbed into the district general funds due to retirements and/or expansion of enrollment.