



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
On Virginia's Beautiful Eastern Shore
7207 Young Street
Machipongo, V.A 23405
757-678-5151
www.ncpsk12.com

ARP ESSER III Plan Update Nov. 16, 2022

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7207 Young Street
Machipongo, Virginia 23405
Phone: 757-678-5151
Fax: 757-678-7267

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**. Northampton County Public Schools has been awarded \$5,048,327.18 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Mrs. Paige Ford, Coordinator of Grants at pford@ncpsk12.com.

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. Northampton County Public Schools will use approximately \$2,884,052.18 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below.

Indoor air quality upgrades are being made to school facilities. In an effort to recover from COVID-19, the following is needed: Indoor Air Quality Upgrades. HVAC Systems will be replaced at Occohannock Elementary School under an energy savings contract. The total scope of the project will include lighting and other items, however, ESSER II funds will only be used to fund a portion of the cost of associated

HVAC equipment. For the energy part, labor costs and installation will be funded locally and follow the Davis-Bacon requirements. CRRSA-ESSER II will fund/pay for equipment. Ventilation and filtration provided by heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning systems can reduce the airborne concentration of SARS-Cov-2 and thus the risk of transmission of the virus through the air. The project scope will replace the specified existing HVAC equipment with new HVAC equipment that is up to current ASHRAE standards, including new supply and exhaust ductwork as required to provide a properly functioning HVAC system, the introduction of ASHRAE recommended volume of outdoor air based on each space occupancy type, updated building automation systems, and improved ventilation in classroom wings. Increasing outdoor air ventilation from 10 cfm per person to 20 cfm per person will improve student performance between 10 - 14.5% (Wargoeki, 2014) and reduce the transmission of infectious agents in our school buildings (EPA Institute of Medicine, 2000). In addition, needle-point bi-polar ionization devices will be installed which will operate while the HVAC units are running.

A full-time custodian has been added at Northampton High School. Additional personal protective equipment and janitorial supplies will be purchased to sanitize facilities and prevent the spread of disease.

Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA to use twenty 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 afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. Northampton County Public Schools will use approximately \$1,245,171.29 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

NCPS has expanded and enhanced summer school programs for our elementary, middle, and high school students. ESSER III funds will be used to continue our expanded summer school programs through the summer of 2024. Our efforts will include hiring additional school nurses and providing child care for our summer school teachers. Bus drivers and bus monitors will provide transportation to summer school.

After-school tutoring will be provided during SY 2021-22 and SY 2022-23 to address learning loss at all grade levels. Ocohanock and Kiptopeake Elementary Schools will provide mid-year after-school tutoring. Northampton Middle will provide after-school tutoring and assignment recovery. Northampton High School will provide after-school tutoring during the first semester using local funds and for the second semester using ESSER III funds.

On-demand tutoring services will be piloted with our middle school students. This will provide quality tutoring for students anytime - available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If the service proves to be effective, it may be expanded to include high school students as well.

Nationally, student progress in math has been severely disrupted by school closures and distance learning. NCPS plans to hire a math instructional coach to increase the effectiveness of our math instruction in order to address gaps in student achievement levels and accelerate learning. NCPS is also planning to hire a division reading instructional coach for FY 23 and 24.

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.

Northampton County Public Schools will use approximately \$893,332.82 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

Survey feedback indicates a need for improved communication with parents. NCPS plans to use ESSER III funds to adopt the use of the ClassTag app district-wide to provide a convenient, consistent platform for ongoing communication between schools/teachers and families.

To improve communication and delivery of services with our EL and Migrant student population, NCPS will hire an additional translator for the district and two additional English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers at the elementary school level. NCPS plans to employ two ESL teachers in FY 2023 and then reduce to one in FY 2024 unless additional funds become available. NCPS will be contracting with Ellevation Education to provide training for content area teachers in instructional strategies and in collaboration with ESL teachers to result in more effective instruction and increased student achievement levels.

ESSER III funds will also be used to fund a Special Education instructional coach (FY 2023 and 2024) to assist general education teachers in improving the effectiveness of their teaching using the inclusion model.

Since the COVID pandemic interrupted regular testing schedules that provided data points used to identify students for gifted screening, ESSER III funds will also be used to purchase CogAT materials for the next two years to address those missed opportunities and help ensure no students have been overlooked in the screening process.

Middle and high school students who qualify and are accepted into a virtual learning program will participate in synchronous learning through Virtual Virginia. Additional spots will be purchased for elementary students to participate in Virtual Virginia.

Other uses of ESSER III funds will be the purchase of backpacks and school supplies for secondary level students in financial need to ensure that all of our students have the basic materials they need to achieve academically.

NCPS will increase funding for family engagement events such as parent training and resource fairs. Mutual trust and understanding are the foundations of an ongoing, healthy partnership between our schools, families, and community members. A part-time Family Engagement Coordinator is being added for FY 2023 and 2024.

Transportation bus monitors will be continued through FY 23 using ESSER III funds. NCPS is adding allowances to cover food service shortfalls if any.

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

Social-Emotional and Mental Health

NCPS will continue to conduct universal screening assessments of all students PreK-12 in the area of social-emotional development at least twice annually. Screening results will help schools determine which students require additional support.

- Students in grades K-8 will receive core instruction through the implementation of the following Social Emotional Learning Curriculum: Al's Pals (PreK) Second Step (PreK-8) during designated learning blocks in the master schedule. To address the social-emotional needs of students in

grades 9-12, NCPS plans to use ESSER III funds to begin the implementation of a new curriculum.

- NCPS will utilize the RecognizeTalkAct Suicide Prevention Toolkit for students in Grades 9-12 beginning in September 2021 as part of increased division prevention efforts and campaigns.
- Grade level data teams will meet routinely to match appropriate interventions based on student needs.
- A division resource map is available for the selection of interventions and supports and teams will regularly monitor student progress and outcomes through the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports process.
- For students requiring intensive support, Check In Check Out, student mentoring, small group counseling, individual counseling, functional behavior assessments, behavior intervention plans, and referrals for community-based services (including therapeutic day treatment) are available.
- Division social workers, school psychologists, counselors, and behavior specialists are also on staff to provide mental health support. NCPS will continue to participate with both the local FAPT and CPMT teams to ensure families have access to community-based resources as needed.
- The Division's mental health providers are available for parent consultations, remote counseling sessions, and face-to-face counseling sessions (on an as-needed basis or as dictated by a student's IEP) throughout the school year.

Academic Needs

NCPS plans to invest resources to hire additional English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers to improve the English language proficiency of our English learners and migrant students. Content area teachers will engage in professional development to collaborate with ESL teachers in planning effective lessons and instruction to increase student achievement. Language instruction must support students in accessing the content and skills of each academic discipline. NCPS will track the progress of these efforts by using stakeholder surveys, student achievement data on Standards of Learning (SOL) tests and End of Year assessments, in addition to English Language Proficiency (WIDA Access) scores.

NCPS plans to hire one Special Education (SPED) instructional coach to assist general education teachers in improving the effectiveness of lesson planning/instructional delivery. NCPS will track the progress of these efforts by using stakeholder surveys as well as student achievement data on SOL tests and EOY assessments and IEP progress. Additionally, NCPS plans to hire two division-wide instructional coaches, one in math and one in reading, and a tier III math intervention teacher for FY 2023 and 2024.

The addition of a translator/tutor will provide support for effective communication during parent-teacher conferences, individualized educational plan (IEP) meetings, etc.

Stipends will be offered to high school teachers for monitoring students working on Odysseyware for credit recovery.

Additional test screenings were conducted in 2021-2022 to identify gifted students at the elementary school level who had missed testing opportunities due to the cancellation of SOL testing in the spring of 2020.

Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER III Plan, Northampton County Public Schools conducted consultations in the following ways:

- With stakeholders, including: students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, and school staff - We have solicited input during Leadership Team meetings of district and school administrators in addition to student surveys in English and Spanish, parent surveys in English and Spanish, community member surveys in English and Spanish, staff surveys, and administrator surveys
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c5jxX7n88oSoG7jLx5SHRdGwEHgXA5ww?usp=sharing>;
- With stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, and other underserved students - We have reached out to parents of ELL and migrant students, homeless students, and special education and gifted students through phone surveys; and
- By providing the public the opportunity to provide input. The public will be invited to comment on our ARP ESSER III Plan at School Board Meetings and such input will be taken into account.

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, NCPS is seeking public input and will take such input into account as described below.

The Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (previously called the School Reopening Plan) was updated on August 24, 2022. This document and our ESSER III Plan are located on the NCPS website and are available via this link

<https://sites.google.com/ncpsk12.com/arpesseriipli=1>. Anyone interested in submitting comments pertaining to any component of this plan is asked to provide those comments via email to Mrs. Karen Pitt, Clerk of the Board, **on or before May 25, 2023, by 5:00 PM**. Mrs. Pitt's email address is kpitt@ncpsk12.com. Stakeholder surveys remain available through this same link <https://sites.google.com/ncpsk12.com/arpesseriipli=1>.

All comments submitted will be thoroughly reviewed and considered for incorporation into the plan. This plan will be reviewed at least every six months and changes may be made as deemed appropriate.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

Northampton County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted on <https://sites.google.com/ncpsk12.com/arpesseriipli=1>;
- The plan is available in multiple languages (English and Spanish);
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Mrs. Paige Ford, Coordinator of Grants at pford@ncpsk12.com 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 Ms. Alana Walmsley, Director of Special Programs, at awalmsley@ncpsk12.com.