

ESSER III Community Engagement Plan

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief

What is ESSER?

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act passed in March of 2021 gives school districts additional federal money to help them to reopen and function safely over the next 3 years as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) is the education part of ARP.



Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funding

Legislation		Amount	Period of Performance Expiration
CARES Act	ESSER I	\$946,000	9/30/2022
CRRSA Act	ESSER II	\$3,710,540	9/30/2023
ARP Act	ESSER III	\$8,310,888	9/30/2024

Timeline

- The district must submit ESSER III application to DESE by November 30, 2021
- Within 30 days of receiving approval email from DESE, SPS must make ESSER III Use of Funds Plans available on the district website.

How has SPS spent previous ESSER Funds?

Contracts / Non-Payroll

- PPE
- Supplies
- Furniture
- Hotspots
- Communications support to assist in the safe reopening of schools
- Tents
- Social-emotional Support - Contractual support for students including:
 - Riverside and Home for Little Wanderers
 - Becoming a Man (BAM)
- Expanded Summer 2021 OST Programming

Staffing

- 2 Deans of Students (Capuano and WHCIS)
- Guidance Counselor (SHS)
- 2 District-wide Social Workers
- District-wide Adjustment Counselor
- MLE Social/Emotional Counselor (WHCIS)
- Director of School Health Services
- 4 Math Intervention Teachers
- 5 Interpreters/Translators - Gen Ed and Special Education
- 3 Compensatory Resource Room Teachers - Special Education
- 2 Compensatory Speech & Language Pathologists - Special Education
- Director of Operations and Extended Learning
- Out-of-School Time Director

ESSER III

The purpose of the ESSER III fund is to **support the safe reopening and sustaining safe operations of schools** while meeting students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. – DESE

How can ESSER III funds be spent?

Intent of Funds:

- Evidence-based strategies, interventions, and resources
- Support students' academic, social, emotional, and mental needs
- Sustainable recovery from COVID-19 pandemic
- Focus on students getting what they need to recover, be safe and healthy, and succeed in school
- Particular focus on students most impacted by COVID-19

Example of Allowable Use of Funds Includes:

- Purchase of curricula, software and hardware to help support what and how students learn
- Offer academic and enrichment programs for students who need them, including additional supports for multilingual learners, DCF-involved, and homeless students
- Hiring qualified educators and increasing educators' skills and knowledge
- Give every student who needs it social, emotional and/or mental health supports
- Provide compensatory services for special education students
- Support a robust COVID testing system over and above what the state will cover

How will we gather input?

Broad outreach to district stakeholder groups

- MLEPAC (ELPAC)
- SEPAC
- Multilingual Families
- Families/students experiencing homelessness
- Students
- Staff
- SPS Parents/Guardians

Outreach includes:

- Surveys
- Canvassing
- Focus Groups
- One-on-one outreach

Stakeholder Engagement Timeline

Date	Event
October 13	Multilingual canvassing @ Capuano during drop-off and pickup
October 14	Multilingual focus groups (online): Spanish, 10am-12pm; Portuguese, 6-8pm
October 14-24	Survey administration to Families (multilingual) and Staff
October 15	MLEPAC/Welcome Project focus group (in-person), 10-11 am
October 19	Student focus groups (in-person), during X-block
October 19	SEPAC focus group (online), 7-8pm
October 18-29	Survey administration to Students
October 21	Multilingual focus groups (online): Nepali, 10am-12pm; Haitian Creole, 6-8pm
ongoing	Direct outreach to sample group of most high needs homeless students/families, and targeted email to larger group

Surveys & Focus Groups

Survey Windows:

- Staff: October 14 - 24
- Family: October 14 - 24
- Student (grade 4-12): October 18 - 29

Survey Structure/Analysis:

- Focuses on allowable use of funds as specified by state
- Analysis complete November 1
- Weighting by demographic characteristics to ensure is representative

Focus Groups:

- Variety of recruitment strategies (direct outreach, existing stakeholder groups, broad outreach)
- Formal focus group protocols

- October 14, online: Spanish, 10am to 12pm
- October 14, online: Portuguese, 6 to 8pm
- October 21, online: Nepali, 10am to 12pm
- October 21, online: Haitian-Creole: 6 to 8pm
- October 15, in-person: MLEPAC/Welcome Project, 10-11am
- October 19, in-person: Students, X-block
- October 19, online: SEPAC, 7-8pm

Canvassing & Direct Outreach

Multilingual Canvassing:

Wednesday, October 13:

@ Capuano Early Childhood Center during drop-off and pick-up

Conducted by SFLC and Early Childhood team

Direct Outreach:

Phone calls to sample group of most high needs homeless students/families and targeted email to larger group

Questions?



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