

# RCS IDENTIFIES STUDENT-CENTERED PRIORITIES FOR FEDERAL PANDEMIC RELIEF FUNDS

Congress has authorized three relief packages since the onset of the pandemic with ESSER funds in each identified to assist local school districts address needs and recover student learning loss. ESSER I was included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act; ESSER II in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA); and ESSER III in the American Rescue Plan (ARPA).

Reynoldsburg City Schools has identified the priorities, resources, supports, and infrastructure that will allow our District to grow and prosper as we transition back to the classroom. With efforts centered around social and emotional learning, mathematics instruction, and preparing for the future of our flourishing community, we are making all efforts to ensure that our students and teachers have the resources and opportunities they need to be successful.

## **Amount of Funding Allocated to Reynoldsburg City Schools: \$13,638,842.97**

- Must be spent by September 2024
- At least 20 percent of funds must be spent on learning recovery efforts

This is the amount of funds allocated to Reynoldsburg City Schools by the Ohio Department of Education through the American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER), sometimes referred to as ESSER III, or the third wave of pandemic relief funding for public schools.

Reynoldsburg City Schools also received \$6,068,577.26 from ESSER II and \$1,291,720.61 from the initial ESSER funding allocation.

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## **Learning Recovery and School Supports**

At least 20 percent of ESSER II and ARP ESSER funds are allocated toward learning recovery and supporting student learning. Reynoldsburg City Schools has directed these funds toward initiatives such as the following:

- Ensuring that online tutoring support is available to all students
- Hiring and assigning guest teachers for each building to provide academic and social-emotional learning support and intervention
- Hiring teachers and coaches to support students with special needs, English Learners, and other populations of vulnerable youth
- Adopting and procuring a District-wide Mathematics curriculum to support student learning and growth and standardize instruction across the district
- Providing teachers and students with resources for Mathematics and English Language Arts instruction
- Providing resources for teaching and learning literacy in core content areas

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## **Infrastructure and Planning for the Future**

ARP ESSER Funds will be focused on three primary infrastructure improvements:

- **School Bus Garage Facility** - The construction of a school bus garage for the maintenance and cleaning of school buses to facilitate student transportation and assist with the logistical operations of the District.
- **Roofing Improvements** - A portion of the ARP ESSER funds will be utilized to remove, repair, and replace roofs at multiple school locations. This effort will help improve the overall indoor air quality of the school buildings, keeping them comfortable and free of moisture.
- **Facility Renovations to Waggoner Road Junior High School** - A portion of the ARP ESSER funds will be utilized to make improvements to the building's sewer, roof, and gutter/downspout system. This effort will ensure that the building is safe and free of environmental hazards such as the sewer system releasing hazardous gases within the facilities they serve.

Other infrastructure initiatives supported by previous ESSER funds include:

- Water fountains updated to include bottle filling stations
- Electrostatic misting devices to sanitize facilities
- Other personal protective equipment, including gloves, masks, cleaning wipes, and protective plexiglass shields

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## **Technology**

ARP ESSER funds, as well as other ESSER funds, not only provide instructional software and licensing necessary to support student learning, but also technological infrastructure to help offset the cost of the technology obsolescence cycle.

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## **Development and Professional Learning**

District personnel will have access to high-quality and research-based professional development opportunities focused on social-emotional learning, cultural competency, MTSS approaches, mathematics curriculum, and other topics aligned with the Strategic Plan.

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## **Intended Strategies and Outcomes of ESSER Investments**

With a focus on the District's 5-Year Strategic Plan, RCS will focus on learning recovery efforts and the holistic student experience, including social and emotional learning and supports. We aim to accomplish this by providing the necessary resources, supports, and infrastructure to our staff and students.

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**Investment Updates**

Reynoldsburg City Schools will provide regular updates on the investments made with ESSER funds.