



# American Rescue Plan Act- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Update

*May 5th, 2022*





# ESSERs & CRF FUNDING RECAP

- March, 2020 - Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) Fund, GEERF Fund, followed by award of ESSER Set-Aside Awards - ***\$3.78 million***
- October, 2020 - Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) were provided, under the CARES Act - ***\$2.82 million***
- December, 2020 - Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, (ESSER II), followed by award of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, ESSER II Set-Aside - ***\$15.66 million***
- March, 2021, American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act (ESSER III), followed by award of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act ESSER III Set-Asides - ***\$35.86 million***



# ESSER III OVERVIEW

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.



## ESSER III PLAN - SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL & ACADEMIC LEARNING (SEAL)

**\$16.6m** *Estimated Allocation  
of ESSER III Funds*

**48%** *Estimated % of Total  
ESSER III Funds*

When planning for the use of ESSER III funds, we aim to support all staff with the implementation of high quality programs, increase effectiveness of existing programs, and direct support to students and families that need it most:

- Strengthening our integrated continuum of extended learning opportunities by aligning resources, professional learning, and partner support. This includes tutoring, extended day and Summer Academic Academy Success (SAAS). Focus additional extended day services for students with disabilities.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation system to review the effectiveness of major Social, Emotional and Academic Learning initiatives (in person and virtual learning) focused on supporting Tier 1 instruction and the instructional program for English language learners and students with disabilities.
- Continue to build school leader and staff expertise in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, as well as build data analytics and reporting tools at the classroom, school and district level.



## ESSER III PLAN - SEAL *(cont'd)*

**\$16.6m** *Allocation of ESSER  
III Funds*

**48%** *Estimated % of Total  
ESSER III Funds*

When planning for the use of ESSER III funds, we aim to support all staff with the implementation of high quality programs, increase effectiveness of existing programs, and direct support to students and families that need it most:

- Expand our social-emotional curriculum (RULER) to incorporate lessons into the core curriculum on emotions, relationships and decision making.
- Implementation of a universal social-emotional screening tool focusing on student strengths.
- Prepare teachers and staff to recognize signs of distress and students with potential mental health concerns with trauma-informed practices that include the use of evidence-based practices.
- Provide virtual learning opportunities through Virtual Virginia Academy program.



# SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL and ACADEMIC LEARNING

## Division- Level Actions Update

*As of April 2022*

### Completed Activities:

- Make Virtual Learning option available to students via Virtual Virginia Academy program; Funded student Tuition Fees & Textbooks.

### In Progress/ Upcoming Activities:

- Additional school-based SST supports provided through ESSER III in FY 22, more supports planned for FY 23 through both FTE and contracted positions; Important to note that ACPS is supporting schools with 2.00 FTE Mental Health Specialists and a School Health Specialist resourced through the ESSER II award.
- Strengthening our integrated continuum of extended learning opportunities by aligning resources, professional learning, and partner support. This includes tutoring, extended day and Summer Academic Academy Success (SAAS). Focus additional extended day services for students with disabilities.
- Kicking off design & development of a monitoring and evaluation system to review the effectiveness of major Social, Emotional and Academic Learning initiatives.

**ESSER III Spending To Date: \$1.17 Million**



# SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL and ACADEMIC LEARNING

## Division- Level Actions Update *(cont'd)*

*As of April 2022*

### **Revisions to the Plan:**

In April 2022, ACPS proposed the following updates to the ESSER III award and is currently awaiting VDOE's approval.

- Hire 1.00 FTE Pre-K Specialist for two years with possible renewal of a third year
- Hire additional part-time SPED - Teacher Tutors and contract additional SPED tutoring services.
- Realign resources to co-fund Virtual Virginia Academy Tuition Fees for Spring 2022; Spring 2022 Tuition Fees are split funded through ESSER I, II and ESSER III.



# ESSER III PLAN - COVID 19 MITIGATION PROJECTS

**\$ 8.0m**

*Estimated Allocation  
of ESSER III Funds*

**23%**

*Estimated % of Total  
ESSER III Funds*

With ESSER III funds, we will continue to focus on major repairs and upgrades so that all facilities have and maintain adequate indoor air quality. Many of these enhancements and changes will put ACPS in a more favorable budget position, reducing long term maintenance costs. Some initiatives we've identified for this funding include:

- Ensure heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are efficient and operational in relation to proper ventilation guidelines, with targeted testing throughout the year.
- Ensure building exteriors are air-tight to help in the prevention of mold, allergens and pests entering facilities.
- Conduct necessary interior and exterior facility repairs based on forthcoming Facilities Conditions Assessment results, including recommended and ongoing preventative maintenance.





# COVID 19 MITIGATION PROJECTS

## Division - Level Actions Update

*As of April 2022*

### Completed Activities:

- Procured enhanced cleaning for all schools; Services are ongoing.
- Procured additional HVAC maintenance services; Important to note, HVAC maintenance services are being co-funded through ESSER II, ESSER III as well as the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF).

Refer to ACPS website for more information about [ACPS 2021-2022 Health and Safety Guidance](#)

- Note under ESSER I & II ACPS hired short-term staff to assist with contact tracing (division-wide); Contracted services to deliver asymptomatic COVID Screening/Testing including PPE (division-wide); ESSER III resources are also anticipated to be leverage for similar purpose later in the award.

**ESSER III Spending To Date: \$2.38 Million**



## ESSER III PLAN: TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

**\$ 5.6 m**

*Estimated Allocation  
of ESSER III Funds*

**16%**

*Estimated % of Total  
ESSER III Funds*

With ESSER III funds, we will be able to provide a reliable, scalable and transparent technology infrastructure that facilitates the operation of the school division and supports greater access and equity. Some sample initiatives earmarked for this funding include:

- Modernize communication systems and upgrade required equipment in all schools.
- Upgrade building wifi equipment and replace aging fiber optic backbone to support greater speeds and newest technology standards.
- Modernize and integrate our infrastructure to support our users across education and business operations.
- Grow expertise of technology staff as they guide projects and implement these upgrades.



# TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

## Division- Level Actions Update

*As of April 2022*

### **In Progress / Upcoming Activities:**

Purchase and installation of classroom cameras to facilitate virtual learning & school health & safety.

**ESSER III Spending To Date: \$.73 million**

### **Revision to the Plan:**

Technology Infrastructure: Internal realign technology resources to support installing classroom cameras to facilitate virtual learning & school health & safety.



# HUMAN RESOURCES

**\$2.8m** *Estimated Allocation  
of ESSER III Funds*

**8%** *Estimated % of Total  
ESSER III Funds*

With ESSER III funds, we will focus on expanding employee wellness and retention programs, as well as increasing our recruitment efforts to build a larger and more diverse pipeline. Some initiatives we've identified for this funding include:

- Coordinate wellness and welcoming efforts at school facilities and expanding wellness programs based on staff needs.
- Increasing our staffing levels to support new initiatives, reignite our teams and accommodate COVID safety requirements
- Establish an Employee Benefits Committee for ongoing review of various components of ACPS benefits program.
- Develop and coordinate an employee onboarding program that supports all new employees through their first year on the job.
- Create a larger educator pipeline for recruitment through a variety of diversity-focused programming.



# HUMAN RESOURCES

## Division- Level Actions Update

*As of April 2022*

### Completed:

- Hired 1.00 FTE Administrative Assistant within Human Resources Department.
- Important to note ACPS prioritized contracting school monitors leveraging existing ESSER II funding but plans to also leverage ESSER III funding to continue to support schools with additional school monitors and substitutes.
- Hired 1.00 FTE SPECIALIST: VIDEO PRODUCTION; Communications services are being scaled.
- Hired staff to coordinate and ensure timely implementation of the pandemic federal relief grants; 1.00 FTE RECOVERY & RELIEF GRANTS PROJECT ASSISTANT; 1.00 FTE GRANT COORDINATOR, funded by ESSER II, ESSER III

**ESSER III Spending To Date: \$.03 million**



# HUMAN RESOURCES

## Division- Level Actions Update

*As of April 2022*

### Revisions to the Plan:

- Human Capital Schools: Realign resources for School Monitors for SY 2022-23 from “staffing” category to “contracted vendors” category.
- Communications: Hire 1.00 FTE Language Translator.
- Grant Management: Realign resources for devices and supplies to help monitor and document the federal pandemic grants.



# COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS, CONTINGENCY

**\$1.7m**

*Estimated Allocation  
of ESSER III Funds*

**5%**

*Estimated % of Total  
ESSER III Funds*

With ESSER III funds, a significant percentage of funds to further develop community-focused services based on our ongoing assessment of our community's needs. We do not intend to create point in time solutions, therefore will continue to engage with our families and schools to develop targeted programs and supports as needs arise.

Some initiatives we've identified for this funding include:

- Vaccination engagement and education
- Ongoing family engagement, outreach and empowerment that leads to additional supports in the community (including housing, food, social-emotional related services)



# COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED NEEDS, CONTINGENCY

## Division- Level Actions Update

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### Completed Activities:

- Hired Dual Language Family Liaison.
- Delivering Integrated Student Support Services through Community in Schools NOVA.

### In Progress/ Upcoming Activities:

- Recruit Manager: Out of School Time Programs as well as Data Analyst: Out of School Programs.

**ESSER III Spending To Date: \$.18 million**





# FUNDING UPDATE - ESSERs/CRF *Rounded to \$ thousands*

*(As of April 22, 2022)*

AWARD	GTD BUDGET	GTD EXPENSES/ ENCUMBRANCES	% USAGE	AWARD END DATE
<b>GEER - Wifi and Mifi Access</b>	<b>\$154,917</b>	<b>\$154,917</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9/30/2022</b>
CARES Act ESSER I	\$3,674,941	\$3,551,949	97%	9/30/2022
ESSER - SET-ASIDE:	\$107,042	\$105,623	99%	9/30/2023
<b>CARES Act ESSER</b>	<b>\$3,781,983</b>	<b>\$3,763,195</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>CRF</b>	<b>\$2,817,833</b>	<b>\$2,817,833</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9/30/2021</b>
CRRSA ESSER II	\$15,491,978	\$6,146,272	40%	9/30/2023
ESSER II - SET-ASIDE: Unfinished Learning	\$172,725	\$32,794	19%	9/30/2023
<b>CRRSA ESSER II</b>	<b>\$15,664,703</b>	<b>\$6,179,066</b>	<b>39%</b>	
ESSER III	\$34,817,490	\$4,509,655	13%	9/30/2024
ESSER III - SET-ASIDE	\$1,045,438	\$0	0%	9/30/2024
<b>ESSER III</b>	<b>\$35,862,928</b>	<b>\$4,509,655</b>	<b>13%</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$58,282,363</b>	<b>\$17,424,665</b>	<b>30%</b>	



# FUNDING UPDATE - ESSER III *Rounded to \$ thousands*

*(As of April 22, 2022)*

COST CATEGORY	GTD BUDGET	GTD EXPENSES/ ENCUMBRANCES	% USAGE
Personnel Salaries	\$9,962,399	\$45,000	0.45%
Employee Benefits	\$3,223,128	\$13,600	0.42%
Purchased Services	\$20,619,417	\$3,732,400	18.10%
Other Charges/ Indirect Cost	\$696,749	\$3,800	0.55%
Materials & Supplies	\$1,361,235	\$0	0.00%
ACPS Capital Outlay	\$0	\$715,000	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$35,862,928</b>	<b>\$4,509,800</b>	<b>12.58%</b>



# GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ESSER III

1

## Concentrate Efforts

Focus on evidence-based programs in high-impact areas

2

## Build Internal Capacity

Find ways to expand existing strengths and successful practices

3

## Implement with Fidelity

Develop structures to successfully implement and monitor programs



# Questions?

**Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Superintendent of Schools**  
**Dominic B. Turner, Chief Financial Officer**  
**Robert Easley, Director of Budget and Financial Systems**  
**Aleksandra Biskoup, Assistant Director of Budget**



## **Superintendent**

Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.

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