

**Virginia Department of Education
School Division/LEA ARP ESSER Spending Plan**

Introduction

On October 24, 2022, Governor Glenn Youngkin and state education leaders presented to the public a [summary](#) of the 2022 National Assessment of Education Progress data for Virginia. The data indicate that Virginia had the most significant declines in reading and mathematics in the nation. [Our Commitment to Virginia's Children](#) is a seven step action plan to reverse the downward path of declining achievement and ensure that all children in Virginia have the tools and support structure to get back on track.

In Action Seven of the action plan, Governor Youngkin challenges school divisions to spend all of their remaining Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds on proven efforts to recover learning like: supplementing learning through instruction before school, after school, on weekends, and in the summer; providing direct support to families to access tutoring; extending the school year; and rewarding those teachers and schools that make the greatest impact on student learning with performance bonuses. Action Seven also directs the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to require all school divisions to reengage the public in consultation and to update their American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER spending plans, as initially required by federal regulation, by December 31, 2022.

To meet the requirement to update the ARP ESSER spending plan, each school division/Local Educational Agency (LEA) must complete all sections of this template. The completed template must be made publicly available on the LEA website by December 31, 2022. The Office of Federal Pandemic Relief Programs will monitor the public posting of updated plans on LEA websites and the alignment of updated plans with LEAs' applications for ARP ESSER funds. Questions about this template should be directed to vdoefederalrelief@doe.virginia.gov.

Section 1: General Information

- A. **School Division/LEA Name** **Rockbridge County Public Schools**
- B. **Division Number** **081**
- C. **Contact Name** **Tracy Hinty**
- D. **Contact Email** **tracy_hinty@rockbridge.k12.va.us**
- E. **Contact Phone #** **540-463-7386**

- F. Amount of ARP ESSER funding allocated to LEA **\$4,131,544.27**

Section 2: Transparency and Accessibility

- A. LEA webpage where plan is posted (provide URL) <https://www.rockbridge.k12.va.us/>
Bottom right Section- Resources

Describe how the plan is, to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand, or if not practicable, will be orally translated for parents with limited English proficiency

The plan is available in multiple languages and can be translated into 105 languages using the RCPS website. Upon request the plan may be translated for parents. Contact Dr. Angie Wilder, angie_wilder@rockbridge.k12.va.us, (540) 463-7386 to request translation.

- B. Describe how the plan will be provided upon request in an alternative accessible format to a parent who is an individual with a disability

Upon request, a parent of a student 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 Ashley Rhodenizer, ashley_rhodenizer@rockbridge.k12.va.us, (540) 463-7386.

Section 3: Opportunity for Public Comment

- A. Describe how the LEA provided the public the opportunity to provide input on the updated ARP ESSER spending plan since initial submission in August 2021, with emphasis on the 2022-2023 school year.

The public was provided access to an online survey to express their thoughts in regards to allocating funds; and comment publicly at regularly scheduled school board meetings. This survey was made available prior to submission in August 2021, November 2021, April 2022, and most recently in November 2022.

- B. Describe how the LEA took public input since August 2021 into account:

All feedback received was discussed and taken into consideration by the RCPS Senior Staff when making decisions regarding the expenditure of ESSER funds.

Section 4: Consultation with Stakeholders

Describe how the LEA consulted with each stakeholder group below. If a stakeholder group is not present in the LEA, indicate Not Applicable in the description of consultation conducted. If the LEA conducted a survey as a consultation method, provide a summary of the survey results as an Appendix to this spending plan.

- A. Students

Description of consultation conducted:

Students were provided an online survey to express their thoughts and had opportunities to comment publically at school board meetings.

Consulted most recently in November 2022

Feedback received: Programming: Music Instruction, Computer Science, etc

- B. Families

Description of consultation conducted

Families were provided an online survey to express their thoughts and had opportunities to comment publically at school board meetings.

Consulted most recently in November 2022

Feedback received: Family Engagement, SEL and Counseling, HVAC upgrades, Additional Staffing.

- C. School and district administrators including special education administrators

Description of consultation conducted:

School and district administrators (including special education administrators) were provided an online survey to express their thoughts. Additionally, small group discussions were held in principal and teacher leader forums with RCPS Senior Staff to gather feedback.

Consulted most recently in November 2022

Feedback received: Efforts to close the learning gap, SEL and counseling, Recruit and Retain Staff, Employee Pay.

- D. Teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions

Description of consultation conducted:

Teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions were provided an online survey to express their thoughts. Additionally, small group discussions were held in principal and teacher leader forums with RCPS Senior Staff to gather further feedback.

Consulted most recently in November 2022

Feedback received: Materials request, Employee Pay, Retention and Recruitment, SEL and Mental Health.

- E. Tribes, if applicable

Description of consultation conducted N/A

- F. Civil rights organizations, including disability rights organizations

Description of consultation conducted:

Civil rights organizations, including disability rights organizations were provided access to an online survey to express their thoughts in regards to allocating funds.

Consulted most recently in November 2022

Feedback received: **None**

- G. Stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved services

Description of consultation conducted:

Stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved services were provided access to an online survey to express their thoughts in regards to allocating funds; and had the opportunity to comment publicly at regularly scheduled school board meetings.

Consulted most recently in November 2022

Feedback received: None

- H. Community based organizations, including partnerships to promote access to before and after-school programming

Description of consultation conducted:

Community members, local organizations, and businesses were provided access to an online survey to express their thoughts in regards to allocating funds; and had the opportunity comment publicly at regularly scheduled school board meetings.

Consulted most recently in November 2022

Feedback received: Continued partnership with local agency to address learning loss and utilize outdoor learning space.

- I. Early childhood education providers and families, including partnerships to ensure access to and continuity of care for families with children of different ages, particularly as they transition to school

Description of consultation conducted:

Early childhood education providers and families were provided access to an online survey to express their thoughts in regards to allocating funds and had opportunities to comment publically at school board meetings. The Supervisor of Preschool in RCPS also met with the local VPI Steering Committee to solicit feedback.

Consulted most recently in November 2022

Feedback received: Local agencies are willing to partner with RCPS to provide additional access to early learning classrooms.

Section 5: Addressing Learning Loss (recommended to be 100% of an LEA's remaining allocation and must be at least 20% of an LEA's allocation per federal statute)

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA to use *at least* twenty percent of its formula funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based interventions. **Governor's Challenge:** in Action Seven of [Our Commitment to Virginia's Children](#), Governor Youngkin challenges LEAs to spend all of their remaining Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds on proven efforts to recover learning, such as: supplementing learning through instruction before school, after school, on weekends, and in the summer; providing direct support to families to access tutoring; extending the school year; and rewarding those teachers and schools that make the greatest impact on student learning with performance bonuses.

- A. Describe how the LEA identified learning loss, including among student groups most likely to have experienced the impact of lost instructional time such as students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students

Rockbridge County Public Schools identified learning loss division wide, but was intentional in including student groups most likely to have experienced the impact of lost instructional time through a variety of ways. Assessments (appropriate to the age and grade level of the student as well as appropriate to the subject matter) were used to identify learning loss among these students. These include but are not limited to: state assessments such as PALS, VKRP, Standards of Learning (as grade appropriate), benchmark assessments, and curriculum assessments.

- B. Provide a detailed description of how the LEA used or will use the funds it reserves to implement evidence-based interventions to address learning loss.

In-depth PD has been provided in multiple content areas, additional instructional materials have been purchased, and enhanced technology tools have been purchased to support teaching and learning. Afterschool and summer programming have supported our efforts to address learning loss. Small group tutoring/remediation sessions have been made available at all schools.

- C. Describe how the LEA produces evidence of the effectiveness of evidence-based learning loss interventions employed.

Our division uses a variety of data points to determine the effectiveness of our learning loss interventions. These include, but are not limited to: daily classroom performance (formally and informally), student progress indicators, midyear assessment data, and teacher observation.

This information is stored on school data walls and used to determine the level of support each student might continue to need.

- D. Amount of ARP ESSER funds to address learning loss **\$2,616,572.80**

Section 6: Other Uses of Funds

Section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act permits LEAs to use the ARP ESSER III funds not reserved to address learning loss to address needs arising from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Generally, allowable ESSER activities must meet the guidelines below.

- The use of funds must be intended to prevent, prepare for, or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including its impact on the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students;
- The use of funds must fall under one of the authorized uses of ESSER funds; and
- The use of funds must be permissible under the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200). In particular, the use of funds must be deemed necessary and reasonable for the performance of the ESSER award.

A. Describe how the LEA used or will use funds to support teacher and staff retention and recruitment strategies

At this time, our funding plan does not provide an allocation for staff retention, however we anticipate an amendment to include staff bonuses as we move forward.

- a. Total number of new staff hired with ARP ESSER funds **4**
- b. Plan to retain staff hired with ARP ESSER funds after September 30, 2024

It is our hope that those staff positions will be funded locally in our operational budget after September 30, 2024.

B. Describe the extent to which the LEA used or will use ARP ESSER funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies in order to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning..

Ample supplies of soap, paper towels and hand sanitizer are provided to the schools. MERV air filters have been installed and are changed out on a regular schedule. Buses and classrooms are thoroughly and frequently cleaned. PPE materials have been made available to staff and students.

C. If the LEA used or will use ARP ESSER funds for HVAC, renovation, or other capital projects, describe each project, including whether the LEAs has requested and received [approval](#) for the project.

The approved HVAC project at Mountain View Elementary to upgrade the current system will be completed in 2023.

The approved renovation project for the pre K building on the campus of Fairfield Elementary was completed in the fall of 2022. This original building was constructed in the early 1970's with only minor renovations over the years. This ESSER III renovation project included plumbing, windows, painting, cabinetry, as well as heating and cooling.

The approved window replacement at Rockbridge County High School was completed in 2022.

The approved canopy construction project at Natural Bridge Elementary has not been completed at this time.

The approved timber frame construction project for outdoor learning spaces was completed in the fall of 2022.

D. If the LEA used or will use ARP ESSER funds for uses other than those listed above, describe below

We anticipate an amendment that would allocate increased funding for our technology needs.

E. Amount of ARP ESSER funds for the uses above (A. through D.) **\$1,794,169.65**

Section 7: Budget

Category	Description	Learning Loss Y/N	Budget	Amount Obligated	Amount Spent	Amount Remaining
Summer School	Summer programming included instruction at two elementary schools and the middle school. Additional programming in summer of 2023 and 2024 are planned.	YES	\$317,904.40	\$0.00	\$48,765.21	\$349,139.19
Before and After School	All four elementary schools and the middle school had afterschool remediation in 2022. Additional programming in 2023 and 2024 are planned.	YES	\$327,904.40	\$0.00	\$79,751.21	\$248,152.57
HVAC/Renovation/Capital Projects	HVAC upgrade at Mountain View Elementary and HVAC controls at MRMS	NO	\$422,353.20	\$397,353.20	\$5,997.00	\$19,003.00
Other	Mitigation: Cleaning, PPE, etc	NO	\$704,934.45	\$0.00	\$101,463.69	\$603,470.76
Other	Outdoor learning Spaces- Walking track and playground upgrades, timber frame building.	NO	\$170,000	\$0.00	\$126,977.88	\$43,022.12
Other	Instructional Practices during the school day- May include new positions, learning materials and online/virtual resources.	YES	\$576,882.00	\$0.00	\$211,789.36	\$365,092.64
Other	Social Emotional Learning (SEL) includes staffing. Professional development and materials.	YES	\$907,000	\$538,000	\$152,874.70	\$216,125.30
Other	Technology-Materials, accessories and training to support virtual learning and addressing learning loss.	YES	\$90,000	\$0.00	\$25,200	\$64,800
Other	Instructional Positions- Including ITRTs, Workplace Coordinator.	YES	\$396,882	\$0.00	\$137,508	\$259,374
HVAC/Renovation/Capital Projects	Capital projects- Pre K remodel, bus canopy, windows, etc.	NO	\$251,000	\$0.00	\$173,012.10	\$77,987.90
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**Appendix A:
 ESSER Survey Responses**

Date of Survey	Number of Responses	Summary of Responses
November 2021	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afterschool programs • Air Quality • Mental Health • Outdoor Learning • Facility and Bus Upgrades • Wi-Fi access • Recruit and Retention • Increase Salaries • Staffing-Specialized Instructors
May 2022	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Engagement • Salaries and Compensation • Safety Precautions • Professional Development • SEL/ Mental Health • Upgraded ventilation
November 2022	51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee Pay • Efforts to close the learning gap • Outdoor Learning • Recruit and Retain Staff • Additional staffing • Family Engagement • SEL and Counseling • Invest in Computer Science • HVAC upgrades • Material requests-furniture and instructional materials.

