

To: Board of Education
From: Eric Olson, Superintendent
Lea Anne Frost, Director of Student Services
Lori Lopez, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning
Joel Martin, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Adam Parisi, Chief School Business Official
Mary Jane Warden, Director of Innovation & Instructional Technology
Date: February 17, 2022
Re: Proposal for ESSER III Funds

Background

In March 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law. ARP included \$122 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds for school districts across the country. We anticipate that District 64 will receive \$1,416,230 in ESSER III funding.

The District 64 Strategic Plan identifies our priorities through 2025-26. In addition, prior to the start of this school year, the District sought survey feedback from school and community stakeholders. Priorities identified include 1) advancing student academic achievement and social-emotional growth, and 2) continued support for the health and safety of students, staff, and educators in response to the COVID-19 health crisis.

Below is information regarding our proposed plans for ESSER III funding. Please note that these numbers are estimates and will be finalized as the budget for the 2022-2023 school year is completed.

Loss of Learning

Math Intervention:

A portion of ESSER III funds (20%) must be allocated to address learning loss associated with COVID-19. Our most recent Student Achievement Updates highlighted learning loss in the area of math. The Board of Education approved the hiring of math interventionists to support student learning in this area. District administration has proposed that a portion of ESSER funds be dedicated to this. The use of Title I funds in addition to ESSER III funds would enable us to extend this support through the 2022-23 school year.

- 2021-22: \$442,911
- 2022-23: \$209,075

Summer School for District 64 Reading & Math Intervention Students:

Funds will be used to support summer school participation for District 64 Reading and Math Intervention students.

- Summer 2022: \$21,000

Middle School SEL Support

Enhanced Middle School Future Leaders Programming

Lincoln and Emerson currently host Future Leaders Programs for recommended students. The program involves a combination of group activities/team building and time with high school mentors and youth in a safe, structured, environment. Group games and activities focus on the social and emotional development of youth and include themes such as: relationship building, academic success, avoiding risky behavior, stress reduction, and increasing confidence. Funds will be used to support staff training and expand activities for students.

- 2021-22: \$6,000
- 2022-23: \$6,000

Academic Achievement

Expanded K-1 Phonics/Word Study Materials

The District 64 Board of Education recently approved the implementation of full-day kindergarten in District 64 beginning in the 2022-23 school year. The expanded school day for kindergarteners will include an expanded phonics and word study program for students. Resources and decodable text libraries will be purchased to support foundational literacy in kindergarten and first grade.

- 2022-23: \$115,612

Adoption of K-5 Math Program - Core and Intervention

District 64 takes a systematic approach to evaluating, reviewing, and revising curricular areas within a specific timeframe. This process, called the Curriculum Review Cycle, was delayed in spring 2020 due to the pandemic. Math Curriculum Review Committees worked diligently this past summer and this school year to research best practices in math, identify potential resources, and pilot possible options. ESSER funds will be used to support a portion of a new K-5 Core Math and Intervention Programs. An overview of the new K-5 Math Program will be shared at the April Board Meeting.

- 2022-23: \$580,632

Promotion of Health and Safety

Additional Supervision to Support Social Distancing Practices

Funds will be used to reimburse the District for additional lunch supervisors hired during the 2021-22 school year. Lunch supervisors were needed to support social distancing protocols.

- 2021-22: \$35,000

ESSER funds are supplemental to the District 64 budget. This funding will provide more intensive support for student learning through 2022-23 and beyond as we work toward pre-pandemic achievement levels.