

Dickenson County Public Schools

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Haydee L. Robinson, Superintendent



ARP ESSER III Plan

Section 1: Introduction

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. Dickenson County Public Schools has been awarded \$6,446,026.58 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used.

Questions about this plan should be directed to Mark Mullins, Director of Federal Programs, or Laura Taylor, Director of Business & Finance at (276) 926-4643

Section 2: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

ARP Act ESSER III funds may be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. Dickenson County Public Schools will use approximately \$36,821.26 of its ARP Act ESSER III Funds to continue to implement prevention and mitigation strategies, such as masking, sanitizing schools and facilities, and social distancing measures.

Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA to use twenty percent of its formula funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. Dickenson County Public Schools will use approximately \$1,289,205.32 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

Dickenson County Public Schools will again offer Summer Academy in 2022 to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) due to COVID-19. The division will also identify specific learning losses and provide appropriate resources to aid in the closing of identified learning gaps.

Section 4: Other Uses of Funds

Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act permits school divisions to use the ARP Act ESSER III funding not reserved to address unfinished learning to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways. Dickenson County Public Schools will use approximately \$5,120,000.00 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

Dickenson County Public Schools has received pre-approval from Virginia Department of Education to use ARP ESSER Funds for construction of an additional wing at the elementary school currently under construction. This additional wing will allow more students to be served in the new facility with better air quality, safety features, and accessibility than the current elementary schools.

Section 5: Addressing Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Dickenson County Public Schools has taken and will continue to take actions to ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs.

Dickenson County Public Schools will provide an extended summer school program for students in grades K-12 in June 2021. Summer professional development opportunities are planned for all staff focused on effective instructional practices as well as training and utilization of our learning management system. Plans for the 2021-2022 school year include expanded tutoring, remediation and intervention opportunities and the use of a progress monitoring tool to identify, diagnose and assess learning gaps

Dickenson County Public Schools will partner with local mental health agencies to provide on-site mental health support and with Behavior Health Services to provide truancy prevention and intervention and act as a liaison between parents, students, and school personnel.

Dickenson County Public Schools maintains a concern for student health and well-being, as evidenced by our commitment to a school nurse in every building. Training of all staff regarding COVID symptoms, PPE use, and symptom monitoring will be emphasized.

All students were provided the opportunity to receive school meals for all remote learning days and weekends also. Through the use of ESSER funds, additional support and compensation was provided to child nutrition workers and bus drivers who assisted with meal distribution.

Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Dickenson County Public Schools conducted consultation in the following ways:

- The Dickenson County School Board included the use of ESSER III funds as an agenda item in May, June and July 2021 and allowed stakeholders, including: students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, and school staff to comment. The Dickenson County Board

of Supervisors were also informed of the School Board's plan for the use of ESSER III funds.

- By providing the public the opportunity to provide input by providing parents, guardians, students and stakeholders a Google Survey and taking such input into account.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

Dickenson County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <http://dcps.k12.va.us>
- The plan is available in English and Spanish.
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Haydee L. Robinson, Division Superintendent at 276-926-4643 to request translation; and
- Upon request, a parent 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 Denechia Edwards, Director of Special Education and CTE at 276-926-4643.