

— BE A BLUE —

Buena Vista City Public Schools
American Rescue Plan – Elementary and
Secondary Emergency Relief Plan
ESSER III
August 6, 2021

BVCPS

ACADEMICS ARTS ATHLETICS —

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. Buena Vista City Public Schools (BVCPS) has been awarded **\$1,597,925.97** in ESSER III funds.

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SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021

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REVIEW - SY 2020-2021

- COVID-19 mitigation included social distancing (6 ft.), wearing masks by everyone in the school building, frequent cleaning and sanitizing, individual supplies for students and following Virginia Department of Health guidelines.
- K-2 students were taught in homogeneous classrooms and pulled by classroom for intervention services.
- 3-5 students were taught in cohorts with teacher rotation. They ate breakfast and lunch in their classrooms.
- 6-7 students were taught in cohorts with synchronous teaching with teacher instruction being streamed to each class.
- 8-12 students followed an A/B Hybrid schedule allowing them to attend in-person twice a week with the other three days being virtual.

REVIEW - SY 2020-2021

- Students attended school Monday – Thursday with Friday being a “Fix-it Fridays” day to get students who were failing or falling behind get caught up.
- All other students would be virtual on Fridays.
- Any student could attend school 100% virtually, remote or in-person, if requested.
- Chromebooks were purchased for each student and hotspots were provided, as needed.
- School transportation started with staggering students one per seat and was reduced to three feet. Very limited and everyone masked.
- Summer School was provided for those students who were at risk of falling behind or being retained. High School students could gain credit for failed courses through APEX and PE/Health/Driver’s Ed was offered to gain credit outside of the normal school year.

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SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

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PREVIEW - SY 2021-2022

- All students will attend school in-person or those who qualify may enroll virtually in Virtual Virginia courses.
- Academic Success Coaches will be placed in every school building to assist with those students who need additional academic or social/emotional guidance to address the impact of COVID-19.
- Cleaning and sanitizing schedules will continue as the previous year. All teachers will be equipped with a “cleaning bucket” with cleaning and sanitizing materials for quick cleanings between classes.

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PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

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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. Buena Vista City Public Schools (BVCPS) will use approximately **\$262,008.10** (16% of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies).

PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- **Director of Custodian** maintenance will ensure adequate quantities of cleaning and disinfecting products are in stock and available for use in division facilities. Routine cleaning by custodians will be scheduled to occur each day for frequently touches surfaces and high volume areas. Frequently touched surfaces and all areas located in buildings, classrooms, buses, and athletic facilities will be cleaned and sprayed with an approved EPA disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2. Food service areas will be sanitized utilizing solutions that are approved for us in those areas.

PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- **Director of Transportation** - transportation will sanitize between each run and daily at the conclusion of the last run. Driver areas will be sanitized daily at the conclusion of the last run. BVCPS will maintain social distancing on the buses with two students per seat with the windows down at least three inches. The buses are all equipped with hand sanitizer stations as you enter the bus, as well as a supply of masks for any student who enters the bus without proper face coverings.

PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- **Nutrition Directors**- Food areas will maintain at least three feet distance between students. Additional areas have been developed to assist in the overflow due to the distance requirements. This year all areas will ensure that social distancing of at least three feet is maintained. Food service areas will be sanitized utilizing solutions that are approved for us in those areas.

PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- **Maintenance Director** - All ventilation systems are ASHRAE standards compliant for the mixing of indoor air. School facility repairs and improvements reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs; Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement. An assistance maintenance supervisor was hired to fully implementing the mitigation strategies, cleaning and upkeep of the buildings to ensure a safe environment for our students.

PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- **Principals** will develop cleaning schedules for routine cleaning as appropriate for their buildings. The schedule will be fluid and adjustable to meet the needs as circumstances change. Principals will also monitor building to ensure proper use of masks by all staff, personnel and students.
- **Teachers, Faculty and Staff** will promote behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 by educating students and staff on hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; proper use of cloth face coverings; staying home when sick and encouraging physical distancing. Lesson plans, modeling and skill-practicing will be used to ensure that staff and students understand and practice these preventative behaviors.

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ADDRESSING UNFINISHED LEARNING

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ADDRESSING UNFINISHED LEARNING

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act **requires each LEA to use 20%** 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. Buena Vista City Public Schools **(BVCPS) will use approximately \$1,305,917.87 (82% of ESSER III funds)** of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning.

ADDRESSING UNFINISHED LEARNING

- **4 Academic Success Coaches (3 years)** were hired to help bridge the learning gaps that have been created due to the pandemic (2 years). The coaches will provide small group interventions and remediation strategies that target specific learning deficits created by the pandemic. The analysis of BVCPS informal and formal ongoing assessments and progress monitoring will be used to measure student outcomes and academic success.

ADDRESSING UNFINISHED LEARNING

- **P/T Tech Support** was hired to support virtual learners and families during after school hours to help bridge the ever-widening instructional gaps created by COVID. This service gives our families at home support with assignments using technology.
- An **additional pre-school paraprofessional** was hired to support the needs of our 3-4 year olds enrolled in our new program.

ADDRESSING UNFINISHED LEARNING

- In order to more fully and efficiently meet the instructional needs of all students as indicated by our end of year testing data, funds will be used to hire a **F/T Assistant Superintendent of Instruction (3 years)** to address the immense learning gaps encompassing our K-12 students created by the pandemic and the loss of face to face instruction. This position will also support all instructional personnel and plan professional development opportunities to aid teachers and staff in their effort to close these learning deficits.

ADDRESSING UNFINISHED LEARNING

- In meeting the needs of our mitigation plan, an **assistance maintenance supervisor** was hired to assist the maintenance supervisor in fully implementing new strategies to ensure the cleaning, sanitizing and upkeep of the buildings to ensure a safe environment for our students. In addition, the assistant will maintain purchase orders and ensure that BVCPS is fully stocked with cleaning and sanitizing supplies.

ADDRESSING UNFINISHED LEARNING

- BVCPS will also use ESSER III funds to purchase **technological tools and systems** to make collaboration easier and streamline instructions in order to keep our learning environment secure. Each building will use Google Workplace for Education Plus to "elevate education with simple, flexible, and secure tools". MAX Scholar software will provide Tier 2 & Tier 3 students that suffered large learning gaps as described above with the opportunity to focus on individualized targeted instruction with support for our neediest students K-12. The technology and platforms will support students' learning gaps that have increased significantly during the COVID pandemic.

ADDRESSING UNFINISHED LEARNING

- BVCPS will also use funds to **support our after-school program** by supplementing the program's educational priorities. The BEST Program supports our students in grades 3-5 with remediation and enrichment activities. The costs will include conference fees, bus transportation and educational programs to include STEM, Literacy, Cooking, Parent Engagement Kits and Book making kits.
- The high school will be offering additional **life skills courses**. One of the course will include a Cooking Kitchen. Funds will be used to stock and supply this new area in our high school building.

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OTHER USES OF FUNDS

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OTHER USES OF FUNDS

- Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act permits school divisions to use the ARP Act ESSER III funding to address additional impacts of COVID-19. Buena Vista City Public Schools will use approximately **\$30,000 (2%)** of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) to **purchase contracts with various organizations like Virtual Virginia** to provide small, socially distanced academic opportunities to support students with distance deficits as evidenced by declining performance on ongoing assessments due to the forced changes in instructional delivery due to COVID.

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ADDRESSING STUDENTS' ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

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ADDRESSING STUDENTS' ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

- **The Director of Special Education** will provide director oversight of the creation and implementation of Individualized Education Plans. The director will also ensure that minority populations are not over identified in special education because of missed instruction rather than an actual disability. The **special education staff** will analyze school and division level test data to monitor and support schools with support services for struggling students. The director will also work with students who are experiencing homelessness.

ADDRESSING STUDENTS' ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

- **Reading Specialist** at each elementary school building will focus completely on reading and reading interventions to support all students.
- **Math Specialist** will work with each division level principal to focus the same level of support to schools in math.
- **Academic Success Coaches** will collaborate with teachers and administrators. They will be supervised by building principals and the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction.
- **The Intervention/Behavioral Specialist** will assist with providing social emotional learning support for students at the elementary with challenging situations that have been exacerbated due to the pandemic.

ESSER III SNAPSHOT

ESSER III award:

\$1,597,925.97

Prevention and Mitigation Strategies:

\$ 262,008.10 (16%)

- * Assistant Maintenance Supervisor
- * Maintenance Cleaning Supplies
- * HVAC Project (KES, EHES, PMMS, PMHS)
- * Roofing Project (KES, EHES, PMMS)

Addressing Unfinished Learning:

\$1,305,917.87 (82%)

- * 4 Student Success Coaches (3 yrs)
- * P/T Tech Support
- * PK Paraprofessional
- * Assistant Superintendent of Instruction (3 yrs)
- * 3 Paraprofessionals
- * Intervention/Behavioral Specialist (2 yrs)
- * BEST Program Support (Summer term)
- * Google Workplace for Education Plus
- * MAX Scholar Special Education Learning Platform

Other Uses:

\$ 30,000.00 (2%)

- * Virtual Virginia (Online Learning Platform)

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CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

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ADDRESSING STUDENTS' ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

- In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Buena Vista City Public Schools (BVCPS) Core Team including School Board Clerk, Grant Coordinator, Technology Coordinator, Director of Operations, Director of Special Education, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, and Superintendent.
- Once approved the BVCPS American Rescue Plan will be available to view on the BVCPS webpage.
- To make comments or concerns, please email grantfeedback@bvcps.net