

# BUENA VISTA

## CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF 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. Buena Vista City Public Schools (BVCPS) has been awarded \$1,597,925.97 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Denise Fitzgerald, Grants Administration Manager [denise.fitzgerald@bvcps.net](mailto:denise.fitzgerald@bvcps.net).

During the 2020-2021 school year, COVID-19 mitigation included social distancing, wearing masks by everyone in the school building, frequent cleaning and sanitizing, individual supplies for students and following Virginia Department of Health guidelines. K-7 grade students were taught in cohorts with teacher rotation. They also ate breakfast and lunch in their classrooms. They adhered to the six feet distancing for all students, staff and teachers. Students attended school Monday – Thursday with Friday being a “Fix-it Fridays” day to get students who were failing or falling behind caught up. All other students would be virtual on Fridays.

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. As with K-7, 8-12 students also had “Fit-it Fridays” for failing students or for students falling behind. They also adhered to the six feet distancing requirements, lunch in classrooms, mask wearing, individual supplies and frequent cleanings.

Any student K-12 was allowed to attend school 100% virtually, if requested. Due the COVID pandemic, BVCPS purchased Chromebooks for each child. Many students did not have Internet access so hotspots were purchased, as needed.

In-person summer sessions were offered in 2021. Each building level provided summer school for those students that were at risk of falling behind or being retained. Students in grades 8-12 were provided the opportunity to gain credit for failed courses, as well as physical education, health and drivers education to gain credit outside of the normal school year.

In the 2021-2022 school year, 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. Restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day and only one student will be allowed entrance at a time. Buses, hallways, common areas and school buildings will be spray sanitized at the end of each school day.

## **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. 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 as described below).

The Director of Custodian maintenance will work with various vendors to ensure adequate quantities of cleaning and disinfecting products are in stock and available for use in division facilities. Each classroom, building facility and all transportation vehicle/bus received a “cleaning bucket” with various cleaning supplies to maintain daily cleaning protocols. Routine cleaning by custodians will be scheduled to occur each day for frequently touched 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 use in those areas.

The transportation department will sanitize student areas 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. 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.

In addition to cleaning and sanitizing, BVCPS is also promoting 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. Age appropriate signage was provided to schools last year to promote healthy hygiene. Visitors and volunteers in schools will be restricted and protocols will be developed regarding calling in advance and required face covering use.

During the 2020-2021 school year all school buildings modified the layout of classrooms, communal areas and buses to ensure social distancing of at least six feet was maintained. This year all areas will ensure that social distancing of at least three feet is maintained. 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. 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.

All ventilation systems in the school are ASHRAE standards compliant for the mixing of indoor air. School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to 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. We have put in place an assistance maintenance supervisor to assist the maintenance supervisor in fully implementing the mitigation strategies, cleaning and upkeep of the buildings to ensure a safe environment for our students. This person will also maintain custodial purchase orders to help track spending of ESSER III funds.

### **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. 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 as described below.

This year 2021-2022 we will hire four Academic Success Coaches 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.

A part time Tech Support person 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.

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 full time Assistant Superintendent of Instruction for three 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.

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.

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.

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.

In addition to our BEST Program, our high school will be offering 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.

#### **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. Buena Vista City Public Schools will use approximately \$30,000 (2%) of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

ESSER III funds will be used 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.

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

Many of the new staff positions were created to provide oversight of the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of students. 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.

There is a reading specialist at each elementary school building whose responsibility it will be to focus completely on reading and reading interventions to support all students.

The one math specialist for the division will be responsible for working 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 level with challenging situations that have been exacerbated due to the pandemic.

## **Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment**

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.

This draft will be presented to the Buena Vista City Public School Board Members during the public meeting on August 27, 2021.

## **Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public**

The BVCPS American Rescue Plan (this document) will be available on the BVCPS website. To make comments, please email: [ESSERLLLfeedback@bvcps.net](mailto:ESSERLLLfeedback@bvcps.net)