Sayville Schools ARP-ESSER Funding Plan

Introduction

The 2021-22 enacted state budget includes language requiring local education agencies, such as school districts, that receive funding from the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP-ESSER) to post on its website a plan by school year of how these funds will be spent.

New York has been allocated nearly $9 billion in ARP-ESSER funds, with a minimum of $8.09 billion (90 percent) going to local education agencies, including public schools. The Sayville School District has been allocated $1,634,072.

Of this total, $326,814 must be specifically earmarked for summer programming, after school programs and supports to address learning loss. These programs include:
- Summer Support Programs for K-12 students
- Elementary After School Support in ELA and Math
- Middle School and High School Instructional Support in ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science and World Languages.

Districts are also required to prioritize spending on non-recurring expenses in the following allowable areas:
- Safely returning students to in-person instruction;
- Maximizing in-person instruction time;
- Operating schools and meeting the needs of students;
- Purchasing educational technology;
- Addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, including the impacts of interrupted instruction and learning loss and the impacts on low-income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness;
- Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs;
- Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; and
- Supporting early childhood education.

In addition, districts must identify programs and services that will continue beyond the availability of these federal funds and how local funds will be used moving forward in order to minimize disruption to core academic and other school programs.

Before posting this plan, districts are required to seek public comment from parents, teachers and other stakeholders and take such comments into account in the development of the plan. This was accomplished through communications with stakeholder groups. A public comment period was held from June 14, 2021- June 28, 2021.
Safely returning students to in-person instruction

Plan Summary:
Since late March/early April 2021, the Sayville School District has been able to offer in-person instruction on all days to all students K-12. We anticipate being able to provide in-person instruction on all days to all students K-12 in September 2021. Therefore, ARP-ESSER funds will not be used to support this area of allowable spending.

The September 2020 Re-Opening Plan is posted HERE. This plan will be reviewed during the months of July and August and will be updated every 6 months to ensure alignment with the most current K-12 guidance for school districts (CDC, NYSDOH, and SCDHS).

Maximizing in-person instruction time

Plan Summary:
Sayville School District may use funding to support the following programs to maximize in-person instruction time: summer instructional programming, retention of Response-to-Intervention teachers, use of teachers on special assignment, continued employment of staff who support instructional technology, and implementation of after school tutoring/instructional programs. The District may also use funding to continue implementation of COVID protocols, including purchase of personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, barriers, furniture, and storage.

Since late March/early April 2021, the Sayville School District has been able to offer in-person instruction on all days to all students K-12. Therefore, ARP-ESSER funds will not be used to support this area of allowable spending.

Operating schools and meeting the needs of students

Plan Summary:
Sayville School District may use the following programs to operate its schools and meet the needs of students: purchase chromebooks/tablets, continue to employ staff who support instructional technology, continue implementation of COVID protocols, including purchase of personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, barriers, furniture, and storage, costs to restructure instructional space, fund subscriptions for WiFi hotspots, and to deliver meals and instructional materials.

Since late March/early April 2021, the Sayville School District has been able to offer in-person instruction on all days to all students K-12. Therefore, ARP-ESSER funds will not be used to support this area of allowable spending.

Purchase of educational technology: $267,273

Plan Summary:
- How spending is being prioritized on non-recurring expenses?
  The funds in this allowable area will be used to purchase technology equipment, including touch screen flat panel classroom display boards. The flat panels will be used to replace and upgrade our current classroom SmartBoards.
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- What will continue beyond the availability of federal funds, including information about how local funds will be used once federal funds are no longer available?

We are investing these funds in equipment, so local funds will not be needed to support this area beyond the period of this award.

Addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all students, including low-income students, students with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness: $611,500

Plan Summary:
Sayville School District may use funds to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all students, including low-income students, students with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness by securing subscriptions for WiFi hotspots, securing translation services for communications to non-English speaking parents, offering tutoring-on-request programs, coordinating field trips and promoting/implementing school-to-work programs.

Sayville Schools will expand tutoring and academic services for struggling students which will take place before and after school during the 21-22, 22-23 and 23-24 school years. We will also increase programming capacity for summer school to address learning loss and to provide enrichment opportunities over the next three school years for all students in K-12. During the school year the District will be offering extended school day opportunities for students to receive academic support and/or participate in enrichment activities after school. These learning opportunities will be structured to allow students to voluntarily attend as well as being recommended by their teachers to obtain additional help to meet their learning standards and course outcomes.

Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students’ social, emotional, mental health and academic needs: $140,100

Plan Summary:
Academics tie hand in hand with maintaining a strong SEL component for Sayville students. To help ensure social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (disadvantaged, minorities, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness), Sayville will utilize ARP funds to purchase evidence-based social-emotional, mental health and academic resources. The funds will also be used to provide ongoing professional development to educators in the proper implementation of evidence based strategies and materials. Student workshops and training will be provided on Social Emotional Learning, Anti-Bullying and Leadership. Ongoing Coaching and Workshops will be provided for staff and families on Supporting Students affected by Trauma/Mental Illness.

- What will continue beyond the availability of federal funds, including information about how local funds will be used once federal funds are no longer available? The district will reevaluate the need following the 2nd year of this program. The workshops will either be phased out or absorbed into the General Fund.
Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs: $581,520

Plan Summary:
School District may use funds to offer evidence-based summer, afterschool and other extended learning and enrichment programs such as summer instructional programming, retention of Response-to-Intervention teachers, and implementation of after school tutoring/instructional programs.

How spending is being prioritized on non-recurring expenses?
The district will be using funds to support summer programs for students in grades K-5. The program will include Math, ELA, and SEL components. The goal of this summer program is to address lost instructional time and learning loss. This targeted support will be implemented for the summers of 2022, 2023 and 2024.

At the high school and middle school level, the district will be using funds to support a targeted instructional program in multiple subject areas during the summers of 2022, 2023 and 2024. This program is designed to fill in any learning gaps that students may have experienced due to the pandemic.

What will continue beyond the availability of federal funds, including information about how local funds will be used once federal funds are no longer available?
These targeted K-5 academic support should not be needed past the summer of 2024, so local funds will not be needed.

Supporting early childhood education: $16,800

Plan Summary:
Sayville School District may use funds to support early childhood education such as community outreach programs, funding to support local costs associated with the District’s Universal Prekindergarten program. For the 2021-2022 school year, the Sayville School District received $248,400 in UPK funding through the New York State Budget. The District will be offering UPK for the 2021-2022 school year. ARP-ESSER funds will be used to assist in the opening of this program. Occupational Therapy consultations and training for PreK staff will be provided in the 21-22 and 22-23 school year.

Other areas of student performance and need: $16,879

Plan Summary:
STEM labs will be created in each elementary school. Materials are needed at each building in order to create the labs and to support instruction in the STEM labs.