



WILLIAMSBURG
JAMES CITY COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EST. 1955

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Formula Fund Grant

The U.S. Department of Education requires each school division that receives ARP ESSER III funds to submit a plan that describes how it will use the funds. This plan is published to the Williamsburg-James City County School's website.

Section I: 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 impact of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. Williamsburg-James City County (WJCC) Schools has been awarded \$11,083,197.70 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Department of Communications and Engagement at (757) 603-6400 or by email at PR@wjccschools.org.

The primary goal of *Forward WJCC Schools 2021-2022* is to safely offer in-person instruction for all students in alignment with guidelines and recommendations from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the Governor of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Health, and the Virginia Department of Education. Full-time in-person learning will begin August 30, 2021, for all PreK-12 students. Instructional staff will focus on providing an engaging instructional experience that mirrors learning prior to the pandemic.

Understandably, some families may prefer a virtual learning environment while the threat of COVID persists. To that end, WJCC Schools is providing the opportunity for students in grades six through twelve to attend school full time in our Virtual Academy. The majority of classes are taught by WJCC teachers and students attend live, synchronous classes every day following the bell schedule of the traditional school day. Students will also have access to some courses through our asynchronous, virtual learning platform and Virtual Virginia. We are also partnering with Virtual Virginia to provide elementary students, in kindergarten through 5th grade, a 100% online learning option during the 2021-22 school year. Virtual Virginia is a program provided by the Virginia Department of Education serving students in grades K-12 across the Commonwealth.

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 and VDH Interim Guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. WJCC Schools will use approximately \$2,574,595.01 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below.

ESSER III funds will be used to provide additional classroom space with the leasing of trailers at several school locations as well as outdoor classroom spaces. Along with the additional classroom space, additional teachers are included to reduce class sizes to allow for social distancing and address students' academic and social emotional needs. Funds will be allocated to provide for additional cleaning and sanitation supplies and to address indoor air quality concerns.

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. WJCC Schools will use approximately \$3,011,647.54 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds add additional staff to address learning loss, students' academic and social emotional needs, reduced class size ratios for more individualized instruction, and provide additional tutors and expanded summer school programs.

Schools will be provided additional funding for instructional materials to target key areas across content areas. For example, because math has been identified as one of the highest areas of learning loss, the school division will devote ESSER III funds to purchase materials and manipulatives that teachers can use to provide differentiated instruction based on students' needs. Additionally, WJCC teachers will continue using collaborative teacher teams to inform instructional planning and content delivery. Math coaches and math content coordinators will also support this work during collaborative PLC meetings and provide coaching and direct support in the classrooms. Similarly, additional literacy instructional materials will be provided to support small group instruction paired with professional learning and support from reading specialists, literacy coaches and division content coordinators.

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. Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools will use approximately \$5,496,955.15 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

As noted earlier, some students will continue to learn virtually for the 2021-2022 school year. ESSER III funds will be used to procure Virtual Virginia seats for students who are learning 100% online as well as providing staff for the WJCC Virtual Academy. This will allow WJCC teachers to focus primarily on in-person, face-to-face instruction five days a week while providing families the choice for a virtual option for the 2021-22 school year.

Funds will be utilized to continue funding for personnel hired under ESSER II including school counselors, special education teachers and aides, a school psychologist, and a student services specialist. Schools will also be provided with more funding for instructional materials to target key areas in different subjects.

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

WJCC Schools serves a diverse community of learners with a myriad of needs and abilities. The population includes students from low-income homes, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care. While the pandemic has been difficult for all students, some of the division's most fragile young people and their families have suffered greatly. WJCC Schools has set aside funds from ESSER III to provide additional school counselors, a school

psychologist, and a student services specialist to assist struggling students.

As one might imagine, student needs vary by school community within the division. With that in mind, WJCC Schools is providing each school with the opportunity to request funding to address the specific needs of their student population. Examples of school requests include funding for outdoor learning spaces which allow for greater social distancing, tutors for specific subject areas, and safe areas and activities to provide social emotional support to students.

Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, WJCC Schools sought input from employees, building principals, students, families and the general public when developing the ARP ESSER III spending plan. By completing a community survey, stakeholders provided their thoughts on school division priorities related to learning loss and the unique academic and emotional needs of students brought on by COVID-19. Survey and focus group data guided the discussion and planning for use of ESSER III funds.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

WJCC Schools is making this plan available to the public by:

- Posting the plan on the school division website, www.wjccschools.org;
- Presenting an overview of the plan at the August 3, 2021 School Board meeting;
- Providing Spanish translations of the plan on the division website and printed translations upon request through the Department of Communications and Engagement; and
- Providing the plan in alternate formats for individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA

Requests for alternate formats of the plan or translated documents should be made to the Department of Communications and Engagement at PR@wjccschools.org or by calling 757-603-6400