



# Board Memo

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## ESSER 3 Funds Plan

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**Date:** May 17, 2022  
**From:** Katie Hannigan, Director of Finance and Operations  
**Policy Reference:** 4:10 Fiscal and Business Management

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### **Introduction/Background Information:**

Over the past two years, the federal government has provided significant funding to states to support educational institutions in the management of the COVID pandemic. School districts have received three rounds of funding at various times, and with various spending and reporting requirements. As with most federal grants, school districts must first submit an application indicating how they intend to spend the funds. Once approved, the district can then make the associated purchases and submit for reimbursement through the state.

Specifically, for ESSER 3, the state requires that we publicize our plans for the use of these funds prior to submitting an application. This allows our community to weigh in on the best use of COVID relief funding, after which we can apply for approval of that plan.

Additionally, there are three specific requirements on how districts use the funds from ESSER 3. A portion of the funding must be designated to address the learning loss that occurred during periods of remote instruction, and a portion of the funds must be spent on after-school and summer programs.

### **Connection to Strategic Plan/District Goals/Priorities:**

Strategic Plan Goal #4: Make effective and efficient use of resources to advance the educational success and well-being of our students now and into the future.

### **Discussion/Highlights:**

There has been discussion at previous board meetings regards to what our ESSER funds should be used to support. Below are two large items that have already been discussed and implemented:

- District 106 has committed to using a portion of its ESSER 3 funds to employ three part-time Student Intervention Support (SIS) personnel for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. We were able to hire three staff members last fall and they have been working directly with students throughout this year. They provide support to help impacted students recover from the learning loss experienced during remote learning. The total estimated cost of this resource is \$118,000.
- The purchase of NeatBars was also approved in the Fall of 2021 to allow better engagement for our students that are forced to work remotely during a COVID-related quarantine or isolation. This required the purchase of TVs, carts, and NeatBars with a total cost of \$43,141.

The remaining funds can be utilized to support our COVID response in a number of different ways, provided that we meet the requirements that were listed in the previous table. The learning loss requirement will be met by the hiring of our SIS personnel, but we still need to commit \$250 to after-school and summer programs. The district has historically funded summer school with Title 1 and local dollars. After-school programs have always been funded with local dollars. We will continue to provide these supports to our students and will use the ESSER funds to provide students with associated supplies, based on their needs.

Two other needs that have arisen due to the pandemic are the social-emotional impact of remote learning and the need to improve air quality within schools. Our plans to address both of these issues are below:

- District 106 is moving forward with implementing Conscious Discipline as a framework for how we support students' SEL needs. While schools were closed or in a hybrid schedule for over a year, many students missed out on opportunities to develop their social and emotional skills. Conscious Discipline offers a way to increase self-regulation, a sense of safety, connection, empathy, and intrinsic motivation in both children and adults. We will be training our administration and staff this summer for \$9,470.
- Upgrading mechanical systems allows us to improve air quality through better regulation and filtering. While we do not have enough funds to upgrade all of our systems, we have planned to combine two of the chillers in the elementary building and improve the associated pipework with those systems. While this project is anticipated to cost \$565,000, we'd like to use the remaining \$152,940 of our ESSER funds to supplement the project.

We believe that the recommended expenses outlined are the best way to ensure that we are supporting our students as they recover from the impact of the COVID pandemic, while also ensuring that our plan is sustainable under future resources. As a summary, our proposed spending plan is as follows:

<b>Total Allotment = \$323,801</b>		
Funding Allocations	State Requirement	D106 Spending Plan
Learning Loss (SIS Personnel)	\$65,212	\$118,000
Learning Loss (Conscious Discipline)		\$9,470
After School Programming (supplies)	\$125	\$125
Summer School Programming (supplies)	\$125	\$125
Other (NeatBars)	-	\$43,141
Other (Air Quality)	-	\$152,940

The district will gather additional information from the Finance Advisory Committee prior to approving this plan, and the public is invited to provide input at our public meeting.