



# VALLEY STREAM 13 SCHOOL DISTRICT

## American Rescue Plan Act (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. Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen has been allocated \$2,008,210.

Of this total, the following amounts must be dedicated toward specific areas:

- \$100,002 for summer enrichment/summer programming
- \$100,002 for after school programming
- \$499,996 to address learning loss

Districts are also required to prioritize spending on **non-recurring** expenses in the following 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.

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## **Safely returning students to in-person instruction**

Plan Summary:

Health and safety have been our priority throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The district reopening plan outlines the practices in place to ensure we minimize impacts to students, staff, and families. We will continue to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) guidelines as we prepare for September 2021. We will continue to ensure necessary cleaning and sanitization protocols, and we will continue with maximizing airflow in classrooms.

Funds will be used for facilities improvements that promote health and safety, such as nurse's office improvements, installation of automatic faucets, and installation of water stations.

## **Maximizing in-person instruction time**

Plan Summary:

In-person instruction should be prioritized and maximized, as technology is not an adequate substitute for in-person interaction. Students thrive on personal interactions with their teachers and peers that are critical to their social and emotional development. Our schools provide meals and opportunities for enrichment and physical activity. Schools support families by providing safe places for after-school care.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional health and safety protocols may be required, such as minimum spacing between students and capacity limits in classrooms.

Funds will be used for increasing staffing for core programs, academic intervention services, summer academic and enrichment programs, and afterschool programs.

## **Operating schools and meeting the needs of students**

Plan Summary:

Plans for maximizing in-person instruction will result in increased capacity in school buildings beginning in September 2021. Efforts to minimize infection and reduce the spread of COVID include maximizing fresh air flow and ventilation in all spaces.

Funds will be used for window replacements and HVAC improvements for the purposes of increasing ventilation throughout the schools.

## **Purchase of educational technology**

Plan Summary:

Regardless of instructional model, all students will have access to robust digital platforms and devices. Students in grades K and 1 will use SeeSaw and students in grades 2 through 6 will use Google Classroom.

State of the art devices, including iPads and Chromebooks, will enable students and teachers to maximize the use of instructional software.

Funds will be used to purchase non-recurring educational technology, such as wireless access, student and teacher devices, and instructional software.

## **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.**

Plan Summary:

Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen has a robust English language learner program that meets all NYS requirements. All staff will continue to support our ELL students, through evidence-based instructional strategies that are appropriate for this group of students. Ongoing assessment to monitor student progress and individualized support will be provided. ELL students are all offered the opportunity to participate in specialized summer programs tailored to meet their needs.

Students with disabilities are provided with all provisions of FAPE that align with goals of the committee on special education. Students with disabilities are provided with programming that meets individual student needs as per their individualized education plan. Students with disabilities are offered summer programs to meet their needs.

Funds will be used to hire part-time staff to assist with learning loss for students with special needs and to expand afterschool academic opportunities. Funds will be used for supplemental academic curricular materials.

## **Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health and academic needs.**

Plan Summary:

The pandemic has increased the need to support our student's well-being. Students need social interactions for proper child development and this has been curtailed due to remote instruction, quarantining, and the lack of school activities this past year. Within any required guidelines, the district will work to reverse this by maximizing in-person instruction, restoring activities, and prioritizing student mental health needs. We know that when student's social, emotional, and mental health needs are met, they thrive and can learn and achieve at high levels.

Funds will be used to increase part-time mental health staff and behavioral supports, and add to our current social-emotional curriculum. Funds will be used to enhance the district efforts in providing multi-tiered systems of support. Funds will be used to provide professional development to teachers in SEL, Responsive Classroom, and creating a Culture of Dignity and a Climate of Belonging.

## **Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs.**

Plan Summary:

The district, along with outside partners, will expand and enhance evidence-based summer, afterschool, and extended learning programs for students.

Funds will be used to provide enhanced programs for the school community, including summer academic programs, summer enrichment programs, extended day enrichment programs, afterschool clubs/activities, and afterschool homework support.

## **Supporting early childhood education.**

Plan Summary:

Early childhood education can have lasting effects on students lives. The district will focus on pre-kindergarten, along with a focus on literacy from K – 6 to support student success. Students in our pre-kindergarten program will experience a safe and supportive introduction to high-quality education.

For pre-kindergarten, funds will be used to purchase supplies and materials, equipment, educational software and devices, and social-emotional curriculum. Funds will be used to support the LETRS professional development program for early literacy teachers.