



Use of Funds Plan: ESSER III

Overview

Austin Achieve Public Schools (AAPS) will receive the following Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III funds:

Initial Allocation:	\$3,679,074
Remaining Allocation:	\$1,839,537
Total ESSER III Funds:	\$5,518,611

In accordance with ESSER III requirements, AAPS engaged in a meaningful consultation process to gain feedback from various stakeholder groups on how ESSER III funds should be spent to best serve students and aid learning recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic. AAPS leadership discussed ESSER III funding plans with its Board of Directors at regularly scheduled Board meetings; issued surveys to district-level staff, campus-level staff, parents, students, and community groups. Surveys were sent out to these constituencies via email and were posted on social media. AAPS targeted specific community groups and advocates who represent the following categories: low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, and foster care youth and invited representatives from these organizations to participate in our survey. In addition, parents, students, and staff were invited to participate in three separate town hall meetings where they were briefed on ESSER III and invited to provide feedback. These town halls were conducted virtually for parents and staff and in-person for Austin Achieve Middle and High School students. Elementary school student input was sought from parents and family members.

Once feedback was gathered in a variety of ways, AAPS staff reviewed feedback, standardized testing scores and available interim assessment data from the 2020-2021 school year, and prioritized needs. All this was done in coordination with AAPS leadership who were regularly reviewing state and local health authority data and recommendations. Instructional continuity, wellness, and school operational needs were prioritized.

One of the requirements of ESSER III is that 20% of funds be used to specifically measure and address the academic impact of lost instructional time on all students, through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as interventions implemented through summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs. In addition, school districts are required to ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on groups of students disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

AAPS will use 65% of ESSER III to address the effects of the pandemic on learning and social and emotional development.

Timeline for Use of Funds

AAPS will utilize ESSER III funds on expenses incurred during the Pre-Award Period and during school years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023.

Continued Use of Funds Review and Adjustment

In accordance with ESSER III requirements, AAPS will continue to gather stakeholder feedback through the award period (2020-2023) in methods similar to those listed above and revise this Use of Funds plan as needed. AAPS will review this plan every 6 months and make any necessary updates.

Funding Description

Activity	Description
Hire additional teachers	AAPS hired additional teachers to help consolidate class sizes in targeted subjects such as English and Math
Hire additional interventionists/tutors	AAPS hired additional subject-specific interventionists to tutor students during the day in classes where they have fallen behind
Longer school year	AAPS transitioned to a year-round calendar in order to

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	start serving students earlier in the summer and added an additional 6 weeks of instructional time
Summer school	AAPS offered summer school to students who were in need of additional assistance during the break
Hire additional social workers and Restorative Justice coordinators	AAPS hired additional social workers and Restorative Justice coordinators at each campus to address mental health and behavioral needs of students upon their return to in-person school
COVID-19 Safety Protocols Training	AAPS required all teachers attend a 10-day Intensive Training on COVID Safety and Academic Recovery Planning
Technology	AAPS invested in technology needs that arose as a result of the pandemic and the continued maintenance of these products
COVID-19 Mitigation Supplies	AAPS will purchase research-based mitigation supplies to sanitize facilities
COVID-19 Personnel	AAPS will support a designated staff member (Director of Operations) who is directly involved in district COVID-19 health and safety protocol planning and interfaces with state and local health authorities to make decisions related to mitigation and prevention strategies and use funds on consultants in this area as needed