

ESSER III is a subset of the American Rescue Plan, which provides for \$122 Billion in funding to be distributed to schools. The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III) is administered through the U.S. Department of Education and is intended to support efforts by states and school districts to safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools as well as address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students. Additionally, the funding is not contingent on schools masking students, promoting vaccinating, or other related topics, but does have several stipulations regarding how the funding can be utilized which generally center around addressing student learning loss and school health infrastructure projects like improved HVAC systems, air quality, etc.

Regarding how Rochester Community Schools is leveraging these funds, we have allocated funding to Learning Loss/Accelerated Learning, upgrades and additions to virtual learning, and supplies and equipment to mitigate exposure to Covid-19. Specifically:

We have allocated \$635,756 to address student learning loss. First, we have purchased equipment and curriculum materials to expand and enhance programming throughout the district. Secondly, from these funds, we are increasing our investment in our summer school and intersession/enrichment programs that we offer throughout the school year. Additionally, with the recent addition of our mental health therapists, these students are also provided support and guidance regarding emotional maturity, coping with stress, healthy social interactions, and a host of other topics. Finally, as the Delta virus continues to cause us concern, those funds will be used to continue to support all employees from substitute to teachers to overtime for cleaning of the district.

Regarding other district expenses, we will be using these funds to provide for 1:1 devices throughout our district, as well as hardware and software investments for virtual learning situations. We have HVAC issues throughout district buildings that we will remedy. We are fortunate to have this infusion of Federal money to address these issues without impacting local tax rates or prohibiting us from addressing other issues throughout our campus.