

9Benjamin ISD  
ARP ESSER III Continuity of Services/Use of Funds Plan

Needs assessment summary regarding student learning loss related to the pandemic:

1. Identified Areas of Strength:

- Continuity of Services During COVID-19
- Community Support
- Attendance Rate
- STAAR Reading Scores (Meets/Masters)
- STAAR Math Scores (Meets/Masters)
- STAAR Science Scores

2. Identified Areas of Concern:

- Social/Emotional Needs of Staff and Students
- Not Prepared for Virtual Learning During Spring 2020 Semester
- Parental Involvement
- Tutorial Effectiveness
- STAAR Reading Scores (6th & 7th Grades)
- STAAR Math Scores (6th & 7th Grades)
- STAAR Writing Scores (7th Grade)

3. Barriers to Success:

- COVID-19 Quarantine
- Staff Not Being Able to Deliver Instruction to Students Face-to-Face
- Technology - Not Having Enough Devices for All Students
- Technology - Lack of Internet Availability for Some Students at Home

Component I: The extent to which and how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. (ESSER Funds do not have to be used for this purpose.)

District does not intend to use ESSER III funds for these purposes.

Component 2: How the LEA will use the funds it reserves (at least 20%) under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year.

The ESSER III allocation for Benjamin ISD is \$349,322.

The district will use funds (at least 20%) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through reading academies, extended day and/or summer learning, technology enhancements/improvements, and purchasing evidence-based intervention/curriculum/data analysis to address academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Component 3: How the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act.

Section 18006 of the CARES Act (ESSER I) and Section 315 of the CRSSA Act (ESSER II) require, to the greatest extent practicable, entities that receive funds to continue to pay their employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus. Further, Section 18003(d)(12) of the CARES Act, Section 313(d)(14) of the CRRSA Act, and Section 2001(e)(2)(R) of the ARP Act (ESSER III) allow ESSER funds to support “other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local education agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA.”

Benjamin ISD has allocated \$326,322 to ESSER III payroll costs for the existing years of the ESSER III grant.

Component 4: How the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions implemented under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

Through the interventions the district provides, we hope to address not just the academic needs of students that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but meet any social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students as well. As these interventions are implemented, particular attention will be paid to low-income families, English Language learners, students with disabilities, homeless students, and students in foster care.

Benjamin ISD has allocated \$3,000 for professional and contracted services and \$20,000 for supplies and materials to support academic interventions.

The plan was made available for public comment at the July 13, 2021 board meeting.

The plan is available in Spanish or other languages needed for this community in a written format or through oral translation.

El plan está disponible en español u otros idiomas necesarios para esta comunidad en un formato escrito o a través de traducción oral.

The plan will be available in an accessible format for people with disabilities, upon request to Gordon Thomas.

The plan will be posted on the district website within 30 days of the receipt of the funds.