

Applicant: 39 2660 LINDEN - Union

American Rescue Plan Consolidated

Application: American Rescue Plan - ESSER -
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Cycle: Original Application

Project Period: 3/13/2020 -
9/30/2024

Printer-Friendly

LEA Plan for Use Of Funds

1. 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; ([count] of 2000 maximum characters used)

The Linden Public School District has developed a 2021-2022 Reopening Plan based on current information from the Governor's Office, New Jersey Department of Education, New Jersey Department of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Union County Board of Health. The school district will consistently review the guidelines and the superintendent will reserve the right to modify the guidance based on current information and protocols.

These funds will provide the necessary measures that our school district needs to take in order to provide the safety and security for both our students and staff members. The valuable funds will assist the Linden Public Schools purchase additional air purifiers and address air ventilation issues in two of our schools. Fortunately, LPS has been a 1:1 district for several years and our students and staff have the technology needed to support the many challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has created. The creation of evidenced based programs and interventions will be needed to keep all of our Linden students on a successful academic track.

2. How the LEA will use the funds it reserves 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 afterschool programs, or extended school year; ([count] of 2000 maximum characters used)

The Linden Public School District will reserve twenty percent of the total APR ESSER funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time for our students. This will take place in the form of various programs, staffing and opportunities for our Linden students in order to coordinate those evidence-based interventions. The school district created a team of stakeholders to gather data based on the academic impact of lost instructional time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, consultation forms and surveys were generated and analyzed to gather educational ideas of how to best implement the ESSER funds in order to make a substantial academic impact.

The Linden Public School District will provide a variety of academic supports to assist all of our students such as: Summer Credit Recovery and Enrichment Academies, Summer Bridge Program, Dual Enrollment, Response to Intervention Instruction, Instructional Coaches, Remedial Intervention Teacher, PSAT/SAT Test Prep, Tutoring Programs, Edmentum and Exact Path Programming, Instructional Supplies to support all students, My Brother's Keeper and My Sister's Keeper Mentoring Programs, Rutgers Mental Health Programs, STEAM Summer Enrichment Program etc.

All of these interventions will support both the elementary and secondary students throughout the summer or extended school year for multiple school years. These intensive programming opportunities will address the learning loss of our Linden students due to the pandemic and provide them with the opportunity for a successful academic pathway.

3. How the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act; and ([count] of 2000 maximum characters used)

The Linden Public School District will ensure that all ESSER I and II funds are spent consistent with section 2001 (e) (2) of the ARP Act. In order to successfully complete the APR ESSER application, our stakeholders reviewed the previous two ESSER funding sources to ensure that all were strictly aligned and based on our needs assessment for the school district. All documentation is kept on file for each ESSER funding source for any upcoming monitoring or audit visits. The Director of Grants and Federal Funding works closely with the Business Administrator to ensure that all fiscal and expenditure reports and reimbursements are submitted throughout the school year.

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. Under this requirement, an LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of its plan. Specifically, an LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions.

([count] of 2000 maximum characters used)

The Linden Public School District has surveyed staff, students, community members and parents in order to gather important feedback about the APR ESSER funding. Survey results were analyzed and consultation forms were distributed to various administration, supervisors and staff to further collect information on evidenced based programs and interventions. The Director of Grants and Federal Funding presented all of the findings at the October 2021 Board of Education Meeting to the public. A committee of stakeholders were formed in order to review the possible uses of ESSER funding with the district needs assessment and the 5 Year Strategic Plan. Meetings were held with all school administrators and curriculum area supervisors in order to ensure that we are responding to the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of all students especially those from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, homelessness, foster care and migratory students. Additional consultation meetings with the Special Education Department and the Special Services Department were held in order to ensure that those students disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 were being successfully addressed in the plan.

All copies of consultations, meetings, survey feedback and other qualitative and quantitative documents are kept on file by the district. Ongoing meaningful communication will continue to be planned throughout the implementation of the APR ESSER funds in order to keep everyone aware of the guidelines, programs and activities that will address the student learning loss.

5. Additionally, an LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with each of the following, to the extent present in or served by the LEA: Tribes; civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students. ([count] of 2000 maximum characters used)

The Linden Public School District created a team of stakeholders prior to applying for the ARP ESSER funds. Stakeholders consisted of central administration, curriculum supervisors, parents/guardians, community members, special education representative and ELL representatives in order to address the needs of all students. A consultation form was created by the Director of Grants and Federal Funding and distributed to all administration in the district. This form requested the administration to work with their respective department and inform us of their pending needs and ideas for the funding. In addition, a stakeholder survey was created to gather stakeholder input from staff, students, community members and families. This survey asked key questions that guided us in the creation of the ARP ESSER plan for funding. Over eight hundred people completed the information and were all equally represented with ties to homeless, foster care, migratory students, incarceration and all other underserved populations. The Director of Grants and Federal Funding also gave a presentation on the use of the ARP ESSER funds at the October 2021 Board of Education meeting along with the community invitation. The district also worked with the business administrator in order to create the Memorandum of Equity to ensure that all of our schools within the district and being equally serviced.

Additional quarterly consultations will be planned within the school district throughout the school year in order to provide updates of the funding, plan activities, review data etc. All consultation documents are kept on file for any upcoming monitoring or audit visits.