

Bryson ISD
American Rescue Plan (ARP)
ESSER III Continuity of Services Plan
June 14, 2021

Introduction:

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III grant through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) is available to the school district for the purpose to safely open and sustain the safe operation of our school and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our students. Having received these funds Bryson ISD board and staff understand that ESSER III is providing funds that will expire on September 30, 2024 and if the district continues to rely on those funds it could result in funding deficits in future years. Thus, we are making no assumption that the state or federal government will provide replacement funding in the future.

Reopening the School District:

Bryson ISD has had several planning meetings beginning in June of 2020 to discuss reopening procedures and the guidelines set forth by the CDC and TEA. The school district developed a plan during the summer of 2020 to reopen on August 12, 2020. Through the school year, the district has had 5 confirmed student cases, 6 confirmed staff members and has quarantined students and staff at various times. Bryson ISD did not have a single confirmed case or quarantine after the Christmas break. After consulting with our local health authority, at spring break we did remove some of the mitigating measures we had in place. Bryson ISD plans to reopen schools this fall with no restrictions on masks or social distancing unless the situation changes. Bryson ISD will continue to promote proper hygiene and respiratory etiquette. A revised opening of the school plan for 2021-2021 can be found on the school website at www.brysonisd.net under the ESSER tab on the homepage.

Needs Assessment:

Strengths:

- Bryson ISD was able to remain open throughout the 2020-2021 school year.
- Technology to support remote students was serviceable.

Concerns:

- 1st-7th grade loss of learning was evident for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Social and emotional issues were elevated due to the pandemic.

Planning for ESSER III

ESSER III planning began with our ESSER III Stakeholder meeting May 11, 2021 after the school was informed that the ESSER III funding had been released to school districts. This committee consisted of teachers, staff, parents and students. Several ideas concerning methods and strategies to help students struggling from learning loss due to the pandemic were generated during the discussion.

A public hearing was held at the June 21, 2021 school board meeting to gather input and information for the ESSER III grant and to help determine a funding plan.

An additional ESSER III Stakeholder meeting will be held on July 7th to review any additional needs and finalize the draft copy of this Continuity plan.

Sustain the Safe operation of the School

The reopening plan will be discussed every six (6) months (August and February) to ensure that the school is continuing to comply with CDC and TEA guidelines.

Addressing Learning Loss:

Spending Plan

Through the planning process, the ESSER III Stakeholders took the information from the planning meetings and determined that the school district should allocate the funds to remediate the loss of learning due to the pandemic and address the social and emotional wellness of our student body. Upgrading our technology devices and to continue to employ existing staff were also top priorities. Bryson ISD will not spend ESSER funds are being used for prevention and mitigation

- **Twenty Percent of the Funding:** The ESSER III Stakeholders, based on priorities of the school district, determined that at least 20% of the funding should be directed toward the “learning loss” that has occurred due to the pandemic and to address students’ academic, social, and emotional needs. Specifically included in this review of the loss of learning are 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 homelesses, children in foster care, and migratory students. Bryson ISD plans to do the following:
 - Hire an additional interventionist to recover learning loss in grades K-8th
 - \$120,000 over two years.
 - Enter into an agreement with Communities in Schools to address the academic, social and emotional wellness of students.
 - \$68,000 over two years.

Bryson ISD is committed to spending well over the 20% requirement directly related to student recovery in academic, social and emotional wellness.

- **Eighty Percent of the Funding:** The ESSER III Stakeholders, based on priorities of the school district, determined that the remainder of the funding should support other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in the school district and continuing to employ existing staff of the school district. The ESSER III Stakeholders determined that besides students, faculty and staff to support the students in their academic as well as social and emotional development was to continue to offer employment to our faculty and staff for the continuation of services that are provided in the safe operation of the school district.
 - 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.”

Conclusion:

At this time, the Bryson ISD is also providing an opportunity for public and parental comment on the continuity plan and the school's ESSER III application. Please send comments to glondon@brysonisd.net

Assurances:

Bryson ISD assures to follow the program guidelines and both Statutory and TEA Program requirements. The school district will comply with all reporting requirements and cooperate with any examination of records with respect to making funding records available for inspection. This plan will be made available on the www.brysonisd.net website on the homepage. This plan will also be made available in Spanish or other languages needed for the community in a written format or through oral translation. The plan will be made available in an accessible format for people with disabilities, upon request to glondon@brysonisd.net (Este plan estará disponible en español u otros idiomas necesarios para esta comunidad en un formato escrito o mediante traducción oral.)

Acknowledgement of Funding:

Bryson ISD realizes that ESSER III is providing funds that expire on September 30, 2024, and that the use of funds for ongoing purposes could result in funding deficits in future years after the funding expires. The district makes no assumption that the state nor the federal government will provide replacement funding in future years.

Questions regarding this narrative should be directed to:

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Bryson ISD

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