

**American Rescue Plan, ARP,
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency
Relief, ESSER III - Reviewed May 6, 2023**
[Galax City Public Schools Website](#)

Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. This plan describes how Galax City Public Schools (GCPS) will use the funds provided. Questions regarding the plan should be directed to Sarah Byrd, Director of Federal Programs, Grants, and Accountability, 276-236-2911 (sarahbyrd@galaxschools.us).

Galax City Public Schools will receive \$4,630,846.79 in ARP/ESSER III funds. Twenty percent (20%) or \$926,169.36 is required to be used to address learning loss due to the pandemic. The remaining funds will be used to complete air quality improvements and necessary modifications to implement plans to return to normal school operations. Following the July 21, 2021 work session with the Galax City School Board, the following projects will be completed with the American Rescue Plan, ARP, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, ESSER III, to address the impact of COVID-19 on elementary and secondary schools.

Section 2: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

ARP Act ESSER III Funds may be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. Galax City Public Schools will use approximately 66% of its ARP ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as follows.

3rd Building Bathrooms - touch free fixtures to promote health and safety

3rd Building HVAC - improvement of ventilation to create a safer environment and improved air quality for staff and students

Roof replacements - upgrades to support the new HVAC system and improve the structural integrity of the buildings. This will support the health of students and staff and mitigate air quality issues. This will be the roofs of all buildings except Galax Elementary School which has recently undergone a complete renovation.

GHS/GMS Cafeteria and Auditorium HVAC installation - The cafeteria and auditorium are shared by the students of Galax High School and Galax Middle School. Installing a new HVAC system will improve the air quality of those rooms which are utilized by all students in both schools as well as the community.

Section 3: Planned expenditures to unfinished learning loss due to the pandemic

Section 2001 (e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA to use twenty percent of its formula funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. Galax City Public Schools will use approximately 34% of its ARP ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

An additional school counselor at GES to support the social- emotional development of the elementary students. Mentally healthy children are more successful in both school and life. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, one in five children experience a mental health problem during their school years. Having an additional counselor at this school will help with detection and addressing the problems in a timely manner so that students receive the needed support and/or services. This position will be moved to the local budget in the 223-2024 school year.

Expanded Summer Programming – Remediation and Enrichment -

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of educational opportunities that will help them to review material from previous years and prepare for the upcoming school year. This will be accomplished by using research based instructional methods in an environment that is fun and engaging for students. Bus transportation will be provided.

Yearlong after school remediation/Activities Period. Students will have the opportunity to take advantage of extra enrichment activities with their teachers after school during the school year. Buses will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays so that students may stay after school for tutoring and enrichment activities. This will increase engagement and allow the students to spend more time on learning and social activities that enhance their educational experience.

Online program to address social emotional mental health support for all students. Student services staff have sourced a web-based program to deliver age appropriate Social Emotional Learning to students. Content may be delivered through student computer devices or facilitated by a classroom teacher. There is a parent portal for parents to access the material and continue the conversation with their students at home.

EL Family and Community Outreach Initiative - The division EL Coordinator will schedule Family Nights for students who are identified as English language learners. These evenings will include a meal and resources to improve communication

between families and schools. A mentor program will be implemented to give training to mentor families to help them work with families of students who are new to the country. This will ease the transition and increase the likelihood of student success.

Individual Remote/On-Demand Tutoring Program - Students will have the opportunity to set up tutoring sessions in the evening or weekend with an online platform for anytime tutoring during the 21-22 and 22-23 school years.

Section 4: Other Uses of Funds

Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act permits school divisions to use the ARP Act ESSER III funding not reserved to address unfinished learning and to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways. Galax City Public Schools is utilizing their funds for items for mitigation, unfinished learning and the social and emotional needs of students.

Section 5: Addressing Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The plan will ensure that the interventions implemented 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, and children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Galax City Public Schools sought public input and took such input into account.

- An invitation to comment was posted on the school division website.
- Public comment time is scheduled for each regular school board meeting.
- A special work session with the school board was schedule to develop the plan.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

Galax City Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at galaxschools.us
- The plan is available in Spanish;
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Sarah Byrd, sarahbyrd@galaxschools.us to request translation; and
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Sarah Byrd, sarahbyrd@galaxschools.us