

ARPA-ESSR and CRRSA Proposed Funding Plan

June 2021



Introduction

The 2021-22 enacted state budget includes language requiring local education agencies, such as school districts, that receive funding from the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPR-ESSER) to post on its website a plan of how these funds will be spent.

New York has been allocated nearly \$9 billion in ARPA-ESSER funds, with a minimum of \$8.09 billion (90 percent) going to local education agencies, including public schools. The Central Square School District has been allocated \$12,026,238.00. The total costs listed below represent an estimated three (3) years of funding.

Districts are required to prioritize spending on non-recurring expenses in the following areas:

- Safely returning students to in-person instruction;
- Operating schools and meeting the needs of students;
- Purchasing educational technology;
- Addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, including the impacts of interrupted instruction and learning loss and the impacts on low-income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness;
- Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs and Maximizing in-person instruction time;
- Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; and
- Supporting early childhood education

Throughout the pandemic we have received 1000's of phone calls and emails from parents expressing their feedback and concerns regarding the district's long term plan to address the negative impact the pandemic has had on their children. There was clearly a pattern of concerns stemming from the learning loss resulting from distance learning to the mental health issues students experienced as they were isolated from their peers. New York State has provided us with Federal funding to address and accommodate those very concerns. We feel that the positions and programs being created will not only close the learning gap but will also address social-emotional needs, while also re-engaging our students in their school community.

[Here is a Google form](#) that will allow parents/guardians to ask questions regarding our plan. If you wish to receive a response to your question you must leave your name and email that we will respond to. We will also welcome any comments. We are extremely grateful for the support that parents/guardians provided their children throughout the pandemic. Our goal moving forward is to utilize Federal funds to make sure that all students are on the right path to succeed.

Safely returning students to in-person instruction

As students have started returning, we are finding that support staff are needed to implement the public health emergency regulations. Many areas are impacted. The school nurse needs additional support. The funding will allow the district to add an additional nurse to facilitate COVID protocols, including contact tracing, health screenings, temperature checks, etc. We will also add a Teaching Assistant to each elementary nurse's office.

Estimate - \$665,918

Monitors for entrance procedures as well as cleaning protocols in the cafeterias are another area in need of support.

Estimate - \$260,612

There are currently 4 Safety Patrol Officers (SPO's) for 6 school buildings. We are adding 2 more to keep security in all buildings during the school days.

Estimate - \$240,000

This funding will allow the District to safely return all students to classrooms by modifying and/or reconfiguring spaces and areas. The appropriate furniture is necessary to achieve this goal. Many classrooms have moved away from the basic classroom setting of an individual desk and chair for each student. This is actually what is needed again to keep appropriate distancing between students. This is to replace classroom furniture districtwide. There are 4 elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. Student population of approximately 3500.

Estimate - \$1,578,500

Operating schools and meeting the needs of students

This funding will help retain two assistant principal positions which will allow us to meet the increased needs of the students as well as reduce the student to adult ratio. The District will add a Director of Academic Supports and Interventions, whose primary focus will be to coach staff on best practices to implement at Tier 1, 2 and 3 interventions.

Estimate - \$954,557

Purchasing educational technology

This funding will allow the Instructional Technology Department to complete several plans that have been sidelined because of lack of funds.

We will be able to:

- Finish the audio and video upgrades to the PVM High School Cafeteria in order to use it as a large instructional space and add audio to the Large Lecture Hall for the same purpose. Upgrade all staff desktops and document cameras in order to achieve seamless integration with the new Clear Touch panels. Install either Clear Touch Panels or LCD panels to upgrade all instructional and meeting spaces.
- Add exterior WiFi access points on each building.
- Provide additional training to IT staff. Total:

- Upgrade equipment that has been used extensively in remote learning: webcams, keyboards, video camera, tripods, charging stations, and a specialized printer, and audio equipment.
- Provide a Z-space AR/VR set up for each library's Makerspace.
- Build up an inventory of Chromebooks and laptops.
- Purchase encryption software to protect sensitive student data.
- Install card readers in additional spaces to increase the safety of our students and staff.
- Purchase additional network equipment to support additional technology: WiFi access points, switches, and UPSs.
- Reinstate the LAN Tech position to assist in the support of technology.

Estimate - \$2,058,544

Addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, including the impacts of interrupted instruction and learning loss and the impacts on low-income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness

The Transportation Department has developed the appropriate protocols and procedures to meet the public health requirements. This brings additional routes, due to social distancing needs. We also have experienced an increase in homeless students. The funding will provide some support with additional transportation vehicles and a dispatcher.

Estimate - \$562,112

Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs and Maximizing in-person instruction time

We will continue to strengthen our Multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) by adding social workers and counselors. We will be hiring four social workers and two counselors. These positions will be at the elementary and secondary levels. These positions will assist with the implementation of The Second Step program at the elementary level.

Estimate - \$1,594,876

The funding will also support instructional strategies that address learning loss. We are adding 8 FTE Academic Intervention Teachers. These positions will be at the four elementary buildings and the high school. These positions will implement best practices in literacy and academic intervention.

Estimate - 1,904,896

We will increase our level of coaching through the Oswego County Literacy Initiative and The Reading League. This coaching will work with teachers on enhancing their Tier 1 instruction to address learning deficits that have been identified.

Estimate - \$210,000

Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs

We will hire an additional .8 FTE music teacher to enrich the music program and increase student engagement at the Middle School.

Estimate - \$191,990

We will implement a district wide extended day program to address academic, mental health and mentoring needs.

\$316,502

We are also implementing summer school support at the elementary and secondary level to address learning loss and credit recovery so students will be able to graduate on time as many were impacted during the pandemic.

Estimate - 535,282

Supporting early childhood education

Due to the disruption of the pandemic on families, we will be adding one FTE UPK teacher outside of the UPK grant which will eliminate our waiting pool allowing all eligible students to participate. This will provide students access to mental health services that otherwise would not have been available until the child entered kindergarten.

We will create three FTE primary positions, one kindergarten, and two first grade classrooms in order to reduce class size which supports the development of foundational literacy and numeracy skills.

Estimate - \$952,448