

School District of South Milwaukee

ESSER Funding Plan

2021-2022

School Board Presentation October 20, 2021

Background

Purpose: Reimburse school districts for the cost of continuing instruction during the pandemic

- Safety
- Unfinished Teaching & Learning
- Transition to Post-Pandemic World

Background

- Three Waves of Funding
 - ESSER 1
 - March 27, 2020
 - \$987,735 total; \$857,545 net
 - Fully allocated/expended
 - ESSER 2
 - December 27, 2020
 - \$2,490,990
 - ESSER 3
 - March 11, 2021
 - \$5,594,078

Process

- May 20th, Draft of ESSER 2 & ESSER 3 Plans Shared: School Board Feedback Sought
- May 21st, ESSER Plans Shared with Staff: Feedback Received
- June 15th, ESSER Letter to Families
- September 8th, Board Review (Staff Feedback and State Budget)
- 2nd Week in September: Lakeview Presentation
- September 20 and 28th, SMEA
- October 6th, Board Review
- October 20th, Board Approval

Three Areas for Funding

Safety: Mitigation Strategies Designed to Limit the Spread of COVID 19

Transition to Post Pandemic: Strategies Designed to Help Re-engage with Students and Community

Unfinished Teaching & Learning: Strategies to Bolster Student Learning

Safety Strategies: \$2,740,396

Air Quality

\$2,502,600

The recommendation includes three main areas:

- Continue rental of air scrubbers for one more year for all cafeterias
- Continue purchase of air purifier HEPPA filters for one more year
- Revise the HVAC systems at Lakeview and E. W. Luther to include upgraded filtration and air conditioning

Safety Strategies: \$2,740,396

Student Health

\$136,796

The safety of our students as it relates to their health is an important area of consideration and is addressed in this area.

- Continue health room aides full expanded hours for one more year
- Continue contact tracer position for one more year
- Both will be reviewed to see if they should continue into 2022-23.

Safety Strategies: \$2,740,396

Masks

\$21,000

As we continue to mandate masks, it is required that families provide the masks, however, in the case that masks are not provided, we will make sure they are provided for the remainder of the year or until our mask mandate is discontinued.

Safety Strategies: \$2,740,396

Contracted Nursing

\$80,000

As COVID continues to challenge our system, we need to ensure that we have the staff to maintain our commitment to our safety protocols. This funding will be allocated to help ensure we meet the expectations of our community.

Questions

Transition to Post Pandemic: \$1,010,212

Technology

\$491,712

The district's use of technology has expanded immensely over the last several years.

- Increase the firewall capacity to provide a more stable learning environment
- Contract out for an information systems specialist to fully leverage the software options we have in the district
- Replace Smartboards in classrooms with monitors (as needed)

Transition to Post Pandemic: \$1,010,212

Communication and Public Relations

\$264,000

Recovering from the pandemic places a heavy emphasis on communicating with families who temporarily chose other education options for their children. There is also a greater need for communication with our current families regarding our mitigation efforts and any changes to our practices based on the level of the virus in the community. Plans on evaluating the effectiveness of this position will be developed to determine whether or not to continue it after ESSER money expires. This will cover three years of the communications position.

- Communication position

Transition to Post Pandemic: \$1,010,212

Transportation

\$25,000

There are many opportunities to use school vans, especially as it is harder to contract for busses due to a shortage of drivers.

- Purchase of an additional school van

Transition to Post Pandemic: \$1,010,212

Outdoor Learning Spaces

\$229,500

- This will open opportunities for all teachers and students
- This will include:
 - Outdoor pavilion at each school
 - Flexible seating
 - Storage shed for seating and other apparatus

Questions

Unfinished Teaching & Learning: \$4,334,460

Virtual Learning

\$157,500

The first area relates to continuing a virtual option for students this school year.

- Provide virtual sections with online courses through an outside vendor.

Unfinished Teaching & Learning: \$4,334,460

2021-22 Staffing

\$1,750,000

This funding will be used to continue positions & add positions as needed

- Two additional E.W. Luther teaching positions (21-22)
- Additional HS Social Studies teaching position
- Balancing the 2021-22 budget (Carried forward for the 22-23 and 23-24 fiscal years)

Unfinished Teaching & Learning: \$4,334,460

Professional Development

\$140,000

Expanding the knowledge base and capacity of staff members through professional development is an ongoing priority.

- ICS for Equity conference and coaching opportunities
- PLC training and resources

Unfinished Teaching & Learning: \$4,334,460

4k Expansion

\$497,000

Expanding 4k to provide more full day options will allow our youngest learners to have a strong start to their education.

- Expand to five full day sections by 2023-24.
- Review and Implement best service model for our early learners

Unfinished Teaching & Learning: \$4,334,460

Special Education

\$57,807

Our students who receive special education services are in need of additional support and services as a result of the various learning modes of the past year.

- Hire of staff to complete special education evaluations
- Provide additional services during summer school and this school year

Unfinished Teaching & Learning: \$4,334,460

Summer School and Beyond the School Day Learning

\$189,120

Opportunities outside of the typical school day or year may be an important option for many students as it relates to their learning.

- Summer school staff stipends for expanding learning
- After school tutoring sessions
- Other summer opportunities for students

Unfinished Teaching & Learning: \$4,334,460

School Improvement Plan Initiatives

\$362,500

The school improvement plans (SIPs) address the gaps in learning from our students. There are several ways that staff are working to further their SIPs and student learning.

- Summer and school year planning time for staff
- Hire additional building substitutes so that staff may work at the building or district level on SIP initiatives
- Provide additional training to building substitutes

Unfinished Teaching & Learning: \$4,334,460

School Resources

\$150,720

Providing additional resources to the schools and classrooms will help address our unfinished teaching and learning.

- Purchase books for English Language Arts (ELA) classrooms K-12
- Provide opportunities for curriculum development to staff members

Unfinished Teaching & Learning: \$4,334,460

Hold For Future Needs That Impact Student Learning: \$1,029,813

The school finance system in Wisconsin places revenue limits on districts that are sensitive to enrollment changes. We have been declining in enrollment for a few years now and the pandemic exacerbated the decline. In an effort to have flexibility in addressing budget challenges, the amount above will be utilized with caution, and will be prioritized for one time costs as much as possible to reduce the pressure on future budgets.

Questions