

Caroline County Public Schools ARP ESSER Plan
16261 Richmond Turnpike, Bowling Green VA, 22427
(DRAFT- July 30, 2021)



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**. Caroline County Public Schools has been awarded \$6,369,208.62 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Andrea Ross, Director of Federal Programs, aross@ccps.us.

Caroline County Public Schools provided safe and equitable access to high-quality learning experiences that built knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary to excel in college, careers, military and life throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. CCPS was able to provide both hybrid and virtual learning platforms to meet the needs of all students while continuing to provide innovative programs that served students with disabilities, students without internet access, students with English as a second language as well as gifted students. Asynchronous Wednesdays were a means for remediation, counseling, and technology support for both hybrid and virtual learning as well as giving CTE students hands-on training opportunities to fulfill their practicum hours for credentials, certifications, and employment. For the 2021-2022 school year, CCPS has planned a full return to learn for all students and staff while maintaining safe and clean learning environments.

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. Caroline County Public Schools will use approximately \$150,000.00 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below.

CCPS has allocated funds to continue safety and cleaning protocols at each building to ensure the safe return of all students. Daily cleaning and safety protocols will continue to be utilized to maintain safe and healthy schools. Funds to support mitigation and prevention strategies have been allocated through local and other grant funds to include, CAREs, ESSER II and GEER grants.

Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning

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 after school programs, or extended school year programs. Caroline County Public Schools will use approximately \$2,400,000.00 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

CCPS is hiring additional teaching staff in special education and 1st and 2nd grades to reduce class size in an effort to provide more intensive instruction.

Summer pop-up tutoring is occurring around the county in an effort to bring the resources and instruction to the children in their neighborhoods.

After school programs will be offered to special population students with transportation costs built into the budget. Funds will be allocated for after school transportation for extracurricular activities and intervention services so students will be able to access an extended day of learning.

Core Curriculum Content Specialists have been reclassified to twelve month employees to support the additional needs due to unfinished learning as well as provide additional professional development associated with the VADOEs “Just in Time” instruction and Virginia Learns Anywhere.

Professional Development will be provided to refresh teacher knowledge and skills within special programs utilized in the core content. The result of the professional development will positively impact students as teachers will more effectively impart the information.

Virtual Virginia will be used for secondary students who have chosen to continue education after COVID-19 through a Virtual Academy.

An additional school counselor will be hired to support an elementary school which will level the resources at all schools to effectively support the social-emotional learning and health of all students.

In addition, funds will be allocated to support summer learning through the CCPS summer academy and extravaganza during the months of June and July in the coming 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 to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways. Caroline County Public Schools will use approximately \$3,900,000.00 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

CCPS will allocate funds to repair and/or replace antiquated HVAC systems to improve air quality.

Each elementary school will staff 2-3 lunch buddies that come into the schools during the lunch hours. Lunch buddies will build relationships with students as a key component to support their social emotional health. Lunch buddies will also provide engaging practice with academic skills.

CCPS will select content liaisons at each school to facilitate the blueprinting process for instructional content, and will help drive a consistent approach to the development of high-quality, diverse learning materials. Liaisons will identify innovative strategies to meet curricular needs, as informed by the latest research in learning sciences and student engagement. Liaisons will facilitate big picture leveled planning, and serve as a liaison between county instructional specialists.

Each school will have a Family Engagement Specialist, which will result in hiring 3 additional staff members. Family Engagement Specialists will focus on the home to school connection and re-engaging families with the school environment while assisting families to locate resources.

To further support unfinished learning, elementary teachers will have 2 days, 1 per semester, to work collaboratively with coaches to focus on close curriculum planning, data analysis, and strategies to support higher achievement. Substitutes will be secured to cover teachers for the planning days.

The Virtual Coordinator will provide support for all of our virtual students and be the liaison between Virtual Virginia and the school division. The coordinator will be the subject matter expert on course design and pedagogies related to instructional technologies. The coordinator will share this knowledge in the form of designed professional developments to share with our virtual teachers.

A Finance Specialist will be hired to assist with the processing of all budget requests, reports, and reimbursements for all CARES/ESSER funding and grants.

Two staff members will obtain credentialing to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). This will support positive behavior as students return to the buildings and classrooms and address ongoing behavior due to learning loss and the COVID 19 school closures.

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

CCPS will hold monthly school support team meetings, principal round table meetings, and weekly senior staff meetings where program audits, grant funding, and resource allocation will be analyzed and discussed to progress monitor program implementation, academic performance, student behavior, and attendance for program effectiveness and accountability that will ensure quality instruction that results in increased student achievement.

Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Caroline County Public Schools conducted consultation in the following ways:

- With stakeholders, including: students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions - A face to face meeting was held with district and building leaders to brainstorm activities and allowable uses of funds. The committee prioritized all items and activities by elementary and secondary to ensure thoughtful planning and spending of allocated funds and resources. A survey was created based upon generated ideas and sent to the community for their input.
- With Tribes (if applicable); 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 - CCPS has engaged community stakeholders in grant prioritization through School Board presentations, Superintendent committee updates, Equity committee meetings, and transparency and updates have been communicated through all school social media. Measurable outcomes will be documented in each schools' plans that will be inclusive of all student groups.
- By providing the public the opportunity to provide input through committee meetings and a stakeholder survey, CCPS has allowed community voice in the creation of grant priorities.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

Caroline County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at
- The plan is available in spanish as this is our highest population in Caroline County at this time.
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Arleen Calhoun-Hicks, ELL teacher, 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 Dr. Paige Carter, Director of Special Education, at pjcarter@ccps.us.