

American Rescue Plan 2021

Rockford Public Schools - 41210

1. Please describe the extent to which and how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning:

Ensuring consistent in-person learning is of utmost priority and the district will increase expenditures in the following ways to support keeping students in our schools.

- *Assessing air quality needs in the district and purchasing equipment.
- *Continue to supply the district with increased supplies to ensure cleanliness in our learning environments.
- *Promote health, safety and wellness programs to staff and students.
- *Supporting buildings with increased health related staff to assist management of pandemic needs.

2. Please describe how the LEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (see below) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year:

Rockford Public Schools intends to use a multi-dimensional approach to influencing the academic impact of lost instructional time due to COVID-19 by implementing practices in the following ways:

- *Increase academic instructional time for identified subgroups/targeted students outside of the normal school calendar including after school and during the summer.
- *Add district instructional staff with an emphasis on supporting core curriculum alignment and intervention needs.
- *Purchasing curriculum, online resources and assessment systems that aligns to content standards and supports intervention strategies.
- *Training staff on our Professional Learning Community Process and supporting their participation in better responding to the learning needs of students.
- *Teacher compensation for professional learning and curriculum building practices.

3. Please describe how the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act:

The district will continue to evaluate needs in a variety of ways by monitoring student achievement and stakeholder input to accelerate student learning. Emphasis areas will include addressing the following topics:

- *Prioritize attracting and retaining staff with an emphasis on mental health.
- *Respond to the learning needs of students in subgroups and develop targeted intervention strategies.
- *Purchase educational technology that increases access to individualized learning for students.
- *Respond to the social, emotional and mental health needs of our district with training, curriculum and staff.
- *Program in the area of diversity, equity and inclusion to ensure all students feel safe and welcome in our schools.

4. Please describe how the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions implemented under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (see below) to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, 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, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

State, benchmark assessment and survey data will be used to monitor student achievement and social, emotional and mental health needs of students.

- *We will continue to support our collaborative PLC model and train all staff about practices to align curriculum, assess learning and respond to student achievement results.
- *Intervention staff will be hired and programming will be purchased to target identified needs of sub groups and those affected in our community most significantly by COVID.
- *We will adjust daily schedules and staffing to target support to student need areas identified through our RtI process and benchmark NWEA assessments.
- *The social emotional needs of both staff and students is a focus for our district. In response to local stakeholder surveys we will hire additional mental health staff and implement SEL curriculum across the district.
- *The district will participate in innovative practices in the social emotional health of students by purchasing counseling dogs and paying handlers for their services.