

Planned Use of ESSER Funds

Background: The ESSER grant program has provided a much-needed infusion of money to the Alpha School District. After several public meetings, public comment, stakeholder meetings, and conversations with Administrators and staff, the Alpha BOE has approved the use of funds in the following methods:

- 1) **Improvement of air quality and facilities to allow for a healthier environment:** The Alpha School has an HVAC system that is more than 40 years old. The school's HVAC system must be updated to allow for appropriate ventilation and airflow. The district will maintain, repair, or replace air conditioning units, ventilation fans, and the rooftop ventilation system in order to operate effectively.
- 2) **Learning Loss and Performance Academic Performance Disparity:** By running multiple summer sessions in very small groups we can individualize instruction and focus on specific students' needs. The few students in the class will mitigate the social distancing issues. The staff are vaccinated so there will not be an issue with the teachers conferencing with the students. We will also run an ad hoc after school program where students who are identified as lacking specific skills to move forward in the curriculum can be supported. This will also be done in small groups. A 70-hour Summer program modeled on research-based best practice is being developed. It will be focused on skill weakness. The district will be finding reading specialists as well as Wilson trained staff to work with primary and elementary students with reading deficits in afterschool programs. Special education students whose needs exceed our ability to provide for an appropriate setting will be placed where learning is safe and can be maximized.
- 3) **Spending Remaining Funds:** Presentation technology and other connectivity equipment to ensure remote instruction or meetings with remote stakeholders and parents are successful.
- 4) **SEL/Mental Health Needs:** Alpha is using ESSER funds in a multiprong approach to treating mental health in the building. The students are identified based on academic need and data collected through our DECCA program (a data based social and emotional learning inventory). This will ensure equality through the building. The plans have been communicated throughout the school community and discussed and opened for comment at BOA meetings. Using this data, we are going to bring in programs to address specific problems as well as purchase materials for our guidance counselor to address specific classroom and small group issues. Further, we are going to seek the services of a behaviorist and other psychological services to provide extraordinary services as needed.
- 5) **Meaningful Consultation with Organizations and Stakeholders:** At present none of the listed organizations are involved with the LEA. We have students who are involved with DCP&P and we have discussed out plans with case workers. The Child Study Team has been in the discussions regarding how to service their populations.

The programs detailed above will be implemented over the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.