



Northern Tioga School District

ARP/ESSER Report-NTSD School Board

May 8, 2023

Here is a brief overview on the how the ARP/ESSER funds are allocated as there were several set asides in addition to the main allocation. The set asides were designed to target and support specific programming. The main allocation had broader allowances provided any project was written to address areas impacted by the pandemic. Some of the applications have already seen some degree of revision as needs and, in some cases, costs have changed. I've listed below each of the set asides and the main allocation, and the status of the main projects associated with those. Included with this report is the PCCD released mental health and physical safety grant.

A-TSI Set Aside (\$37, 769): This set aside was specific to Williamson High School due to its A-TSI status. It was allocated towards expenses associated with remote learning, a math program used at that school-Delta Math, and Exact Path. Exact Path being an adaptable diagnostic program used across several schools in the district. This set aside has been mostly expended at this point. Funding is being used to also support the Apex tutorial program that is used to support instruction and remediation in tested content.

Learning Loss Set Aside (\$290,773): This set aside has been used to support reading improvement (a requirement), SEL and associated professional development, and other instructional programming as determined by an individual school district. We have already begun our professional development work on social skill development this summer. A district-wide team of teachers and administrators have begun a year long process of study and collaboration to develop a social skill development plan that is specific to the needs of our district schools. This team has completed its work with Amy Moritz and Ellen Connors. The team is now working on developing the professional development that will be provided to the faculty and staff during the 23/24 school year. The professional development will center on 8 social skills. Each school team has been assigned specific social skills around which to develop presentations for the faculty and staff. Once this work is done, the committee will come back together to review the material. Planning is taking place for the committee to focus on the student component. The committee will take part in professional develop for this focus during the 23/24 school year. In addressing mental health (a component of SEL) we have allocated \$30,000/year for three years to support our agreement with Laurel Health to continue providing school based, out-patient counseling for students. On the instructional side, our Learning Focused Schools (our instructional framework) trainers spent a week this summer participating in an update on the framework in preparation for the "reboot" of the framework, as we come out the pandemic. The health and safety requirements greatly affected all schools' ability to deliver instructional that was rooted in research based, best practices. We are focusing on getting back to that, as a district.

Summer School Set Aside (\$58,155): This set aside allowed us to provide summer school to 52 students, at no cost to their families. In a pre-pandemic summer, we would have had 10-12 students enrolled in summer school at a cost of around \$200 per course, per student. Families were responsible, pre-pandemic, to provide transportation to the administration building. We were able to use this funding to provide transportation from the high school campuses to the administration building. We completed summer school in three weeks with a 95% success rate which is on par with previous years success rates. With this funding, we were able to add additional teaching staff. They were phenomenal with our students. We have ARP/ESSER funding allocated for one more summer of this model for summer school. There will be funds remaining after this summer, but not enough to fund the entire program. Afterwards, the district will need to decide if we continue this model.

After School Program Set Aside (\$58,155): This is the set aside in which we are partnering with the Tioga County Partnership for Community Health and its director, Sue Sticklin, to start up the Community Care Initiative. Shelby Rush has been hired by The Partnership as the program director. The Set Aside will support her salary. The Partnership has received generous additional funding to support additional costs associated with programming. Shelby has met with principals to discuss details specific to each school and overall program elements. The program is set to launch on January 17th and will run to May 25th. Each elementary school site will have a site coordinator and an aide. Within the 20% Set Aside of the larger ARP/ESSER allocation, funding was budgeted for after school tutoring, to be tied into the Community Care Initiative. We have also budgeted funding for bussing back to communities from the elementary schools. The Community Care Initiative will provide for an after-school snack and tutoring time for students participating in the program. This program is off to a strong start in all three elementary schools. Per Shelby Rush, CCI Coordinator: We are off to a good start. In total we've had 21 days (as of 3/7/2023) of programming facilitated to kids, which includes 21 hours of academic support and 21 hours of programming of various sorts for the kids. Obviously, we have missed quite a few days due to weather. Transportation has been going well with very few issues at least that I have been made aware of. We have 27 children currently enrolled at RB Walter and 30 at each of the other two sites. Programming activities so far have included rock climbing, Mansfield University Football mini-camp, cooking, move and groove, volleyball, basketball, soccer, gardening, health and wellness, music, and book clubs. Presenters have included Penn Dot to discuss traffic safety, Haven to talk about bullying, the Audubon society to share about birds, the master gardeners to teach about insects, Concern to discuss stress management, free throw competition with the Knights of Columbus, and Carolyn Moyer with the Partnership to talk about healthy living.

ARP/ESSER 20% Learning Loss (\$1,046,781.60): Within ARP/ESSER we had to allocate 20% of the total allocation towards learning loss. We have used these funds to provide a 3rd school psychologist position, an asst principal at one of the elementary schools, MTSS tutors, APL training for recently hired professional staff will be taking place this summer, after school tutors for the Community Care Initiative, and transportation associated with the Community Care Initiative. We have funding available to maintain the MTSS tutors for the 23/24 school year.

ARP/ESSER (\$4,190,851.40): This largest allocation is being used to fund an HVAC project at the two high schools. The original scope of the project included the elementary schools but as the cost of materials and other costs associated with project have increased significantly, the scope had to be reduced while also maintaining some equity across the district.

PCCD-School Mental Health/Physical Safety and Security (\$261,880.00): This grant was released through Act 55 of 2022, with the Pennsylvania budget. It is divided into year 1 (2022-2023) and year 2 (2023-2024). The funding is to be allocated equally to address mental health and physical safety. The funding period starts August 1, 2022 and ends on July 31, 2024. For the mental health allocation, we will use funding to conduct a school climate assessment (a Tier 1 requirement for use of funding) in year one. This assessment data will be used to support the SEL work that is ongoing. This allocation will also fund one school psychologist position in year 2. The school psychologist funded with the grant will present lessons on mental health and well-being in year 2. The physical safety allocation is being used towards funding the building access project. A Tier 1 criteria for this grant was the completion of a school climate assessment. Given our social-skill work with Amy Moritz, we contracted with her to complete the assessments in each of the five schools. That data will be presented to the principals soon and will guide future planning regarding social-skill development and Comprehensive Planning.

This update will also be posted to the district website.