

State Budget Reporting Survey - Budget ReportingBackground/Instructions

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Background and Instructions**Background**

Section 9-a of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2021, as amended by §5-a of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022 requires, on or before July 1, 2022, every local educational agency (LEA) receiving funding from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) act of 2021 to post on its website and submit to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) an updated plan of how such funds will be expended and how the LEA will prioritize spending on non-recurring expenses as defined in section 9-a(1) of part A of chapter 56 of the laws of 2021. This updated plan must include:

An analysis of public comment;

Goals and ratios for pupil support;

Detailed summaries of Investments in current year activities; and

Balance of funds spent in priority areas.

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American Rescue Plan (ARP) Spending Plan Reporting

1.



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2. Please provide an analysis of public comment for the updated American Rescue Plan (ARP) - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding.

There was a total of 45 people who took part in the public comment opportunity for COVID-19. We received good feedback from our community and teachers on the use of this grant. Below I will summarize some of the topics that were answered without getting into too much detail. I can certainly elaborate as needed.

1. Of the 45 individuals who took part, 24 knew we had received funding and 21 did not. As a district, we were surprised by this. The funding has been mentioned numerous times at BOE meetings. My rough guess on the number of meetings it was mentioned since I arrived in March 2021 is around 20. We posted numerous times to social media and our school website as well. We also presented this funding plan during our budget season. Our takeaway is we may need to put advertisements in papers to reach a different segment of the population.
2. Our next topic was a discussion determining what the community and staff thought would be the most important topic to use this funding on. The options were Educational Technology, Learning Loss for students, Staff Development, School Operation, Social, Emotional and Mental Health or other. Below are the results:
 1. All of these topics are equally important and beneficial for our school community: 1
 2. All that involves this funding and what it is being used for: 1
 3. Educational Technology: 3
 4. Learning Loss for students: 15
 5. Money should be spent on the students in all the above categories: 1
 6. New Track: 1
 7. Safety Schools against guns: 1
 8. School Operation: 2
 9. School Safety: 1
 10. Social, Emotional and Mental Health: 19

Our biggest takeaway from this topic is focusing on the health of our students and learning loss is paramount to the success of our district with regard to these funds. We believe we have a plan that does that and are hoping results will start next year.

1. The next question we posed was for anyone who had reviewed and heard the plan. We asked after hearing or reading the plan, what did they think we should spend the funds on? Very similar to the last question, but we left it more open ended without determined answers in hopes of more varied responses. We received a wide range of response and I will summarize them here. I will not include the amount because all 45 answers were different. So, I tried to lump similar response together.
 1. Upgrade furniture, heating, air conditioning and the school athletic facilities
 2. Expanded tutoring/staff to support learning
 3. Address character/politeness and respect
 4. School Operation
 5. Staff Development
 6. Adding a new School Physiologist
 7. More therapy available for emotional and behavioral needs
 8. Social, Emotional and mental health
 9. Air filtration system
 10. New computers
 11. Supplies for classrooms
 12. Safety improvements
 13. New cafeteria
 14. New track
 15. Upgraded auditorium
 16. Relaxation area for students
 17. School pride
 18. New playground
 19. Care for staff
1. Next, we wanted to get opinions on how the funding was planned to be spent. We asked if anyone had any specific concerns with how the funding is planned to be spent. We had 29 responses that they did not have any concerns with how the funding was going to be spent. Below is a summary of the remaining responses.
 1. Create smaller discussion groups for the areas the money is spent
 2. Safety enhancements for all guests

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Program Goals	Per Pupil Teacher Ratios (# : #)
<p>4. Graduation Stage: Our district typically had graduation inside, but due to restrictions we had to shift outside. Incorporating a stage allows the district to continue this practice in the event for the foreseeable years</p> <p>5. Opening day welcome back picnic: Provided an experience for the students so they felt comfortable returning to school</p> <p>Ratio was determined by staff members to students</p>	
<p>School Operation</p> <p>1. Weight Room Upgrades: Improve weight room accessibility so all students can work on their social and mental health throughout the course of a year</p> <p>Same ratio as above</p>	640:183
<p>Educational Technology</p> <p>1. Student Laptops: Purchase and support of appropriate laptops to ensure all students can complete work from home if needed</p> <p>2. Personal Computer Specialist: Dedicated staff member to help with classroom and take home technology. Their role is train all staff and students on the technology they are using</p> <p>Ratio is our IT department to students</p>	640:2
<p>Impact on Students</p> <p>1. Staff Development Training: Provide training to all staff members in the following: instruction, mental health, social health, emotional health, leadership, teamwork, life skills and anything else that comes up over the next two years</p> <p>2. Staff Continuity: Maintain key staff such as teachers assistants and teacher aides to ensure students have the support they need to address learning loss</p> <p>3. Tutors: Offer more tutors throughout each school year to address learning loss</p> <p>4. Long term subs/remote teachers: Provide two consistent subs each day. Also, one teacher was responsible for gathering remote for affected students</p> <p>5. Catch up on Speech Services: Speech services were delayed for at least a year due to the pandemic. Speech with masking is very difficult to be effective. This service allows our staff to try to catch up for lost time due to the pandemic</p> <p>6. After School Program: Create middle school/high school after school program to address learning loss. The goal is to address the lost learning and bring grades back up</p> <p>7. Additional Nurse Hire: Provide an additional service provider in the event someone else on staff becomes ill. Also, to help with expanded needs/responsibilities due to COVID-19</p> <p>8. Employee Benefits: Associated benefits with all salaries</p> <p>Ratio is all staff to students</p>	640:183
<p>Summer School: Provide expanded elementary summer school and expand MS/HS summer school. This will be offered to all students and required for some. We hope we get students back to the level they were prior to the pandemic</p> <p>Before/After School: Create an elementary before school program and expand MS/HS after school program. We hope this gets more students involved and returns them to their pre pandemic level</p>	

