

Findlay City Schools

A plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

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. Findlay City Schools (FCS) has been awarded approximately \$8.8 million in ARP ESSER funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Superintendent, Troy Roth at troth@findlaycityschools.org

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. FCS navigated the 2020-2021 school year based on local COVID data and the color system implemented by Governor DeWine. Based on the number of cases, FCS operated in a manner that ranged from fully remote for our secondary learners, to hybrid, and ultimately 100% in session learning the last 9 weeks of school. In the event of a resurgence of COVID, FCS will follow the following previously established guidelines:

Policy 10.15- Face Coverings:

https://docs.fcs.org/District/policies/10pol/10-15_Face_Coverings_Policy.pdf

Hancock/FCS Return to School Agreement:

<https://docs.fcs.org/reo/Oct2020Change.pdf>

Student Academic, Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs

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. Findlay City Schools will use approximately \$2.5 million of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

FCS plans to fund approximately 17 positions over the next 2 years to focus on improving k-3 reading through the implementation of evidenced based direct, explicit phonemic awareness and instruction. Each k-3 classroom will be provided a certified teacher to “push-in” during their reading block in order to ensure students receive recommended minutes of phonics instruction daily.

FCS will employ subject matter experts to provide instructional coaching across multiple classes/grades in terms of differentiation, interventions, and best practices to make up for learning loss. FCS will utilize funds to support additional interventions (aka math at FHS). Additionally, FCS will provide principals with additional support toward managing student behaviors, thus increasing the time available in their day to act as the instructional leaders in the buildings.

FCS will utilize funds to provide high quality resources and strategies including but not limited to:

- growth/benchmark assessments
- online curriculum resources to support blended learning through 1:1 technology and 21st century strategies
- continue to employ seven (7) K-5 Trojan Academy teachers and purchase programs/online resources to support the continuance of remote instruction in order to meet the academic needs of students that need off-site learning
- The 9 Essential Skills for the Love and Logic Classroom
- The Leader In Me

Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

FCS will continue to engage stakeholders in the developing the ARP ESSER Plan through communication with stakeholders, including: students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, and school staff via email, social media, video updates, public board meetings, etc.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

Findlay City Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at www.findlaycityschools.org
- The plan is available in multiple languages and may be orally translated through request, please call 419-427-5488
- The district has an ADA compliant website to accommodate stakeholders with disabilities as defined by the ADA.