



# BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BlaineSchools.org

*James Foudy, Superintendent*

January 4, 2022

To: Blaine County School District Board of Trustees

From: Jim Foudy, Superintendent

Re: ARP / ESSER Expenditures Recommendation

## Definitions and Associated Timelines

- a. ESSER: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief. Timeline: Available through September 30, 2022. Allocated \$284,156 – Remaining Balance \$47,921 (committed)
- b. ESSER II: “Not less than 20% to address learning loss...” “Remaining may be used for the same allowable purposes as ESSER, including hiring new staff and avoiding layoffs.” Timeline: Available through September 30, 2023. Allocated \$1,259,026 – (Committed to current staffing and supplies.)
- c. ESSER III / ARP: “American Rescue Plan Act, 2021.” Timeline: Available through September 30, 2024. Allocated \$2,082,375

In the fall of 2021, the district identified several local stakeholders and engaged in meaningful consultation to develop budget priorities for ESSER III / ARP funds. The team included 27 individuals comprised of district leadership, teachers, a trustee, and community partners. Community partners included: The YMCA, I have a Dream Foundation, The Hunger Coalition and The Blaine County Recreation District. ESSER III / ARP definitions and allowable expenditures were reviewed. From that review, team members considered all options for the expenditure of funds and ultimately prioritized recommendations for the board’s consideration. Priority recommendations are as follows:

1. Extended Learning: Extended day and year support for learning was identified as the top priority by the ESSER III / ARP planning team. This includes efforts to close opportunity and achievement gaps by providing extended day and year programming. Coordinating with community partners is critical to these efforts, including but not limited to: The I Have a Dream Foundation, YMCA, Idaho Base Camp and the Hunger Coalition. Projected expenditures: FY22, FY23, FY24 @ \$320,000 each year for a total of \$960,000.
2. Addressing the “whole student” was identified as the #2 priority: This includes social / emotional support, as well as enrichment and extension opportunities for students. The team is interested in increasing student engagement and addressing behavioral mental health challenges that emerged during the pandemic. Projected expenditures: FY22, FY23, FY24 @ \$40,000 each year for a total of \$120,000.

3. Staff Support was identified as the #3 priority: The team recognized that support for staff for the instructional year is critical. Professional development and compensation were specifically noted. District-wide training on Response to Intervention and Professional Learning Communities were identified as top priorities for professional development. The estimated budget through FY24 is \$110,000.
4. Indoor / Outdoor Facility and Equipment Improvements were identified as the fourth priority. This specific area is a priority and likely will need additional resources beyond ARP / ESSER funding. Facility expansion included creating additional outdoor spaces with a total budget of \$400,000.
5. Safety and Security was identified as the fifth priority. This area of concern includes both physical safety features like enhanced door access controls and upgraded campus surveillance, as well as COVID related enhancements and mitigation strategies. The projected budget is \$300,000.
6. Family Engagement was identified as the sixth priority. The team recognized that family partnerships with schools are one of the most effective strategies to improve student engagement and academic success. Traditional efforts in this area have been less than effective. Creative collaboration with community partners may be part of the solution to reach families in more meaningful ways. The team also discussed an enhanced social media presence and website accessibility. The estimated budget is \$200,000.

Administration recommends providing a public survey for comment and returning to the Board for approval of the proposal at its regular February meeting.