

American Rescue Plan
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief
Of the
Mitchell School District 17-2

Past ESSER and CFSR Allocations: The Mitchell School District, like all public-school districts in South Dakota and the United States, have received emergency relief funds for dealing with the COVID19 epidemic. The first ESSER allocation (ESSER1) was used to purchase technology related to offering instruction to Mitchell students whether in school or at home, in-person or virtually. A non-ESSER allocation for pandemic relief, CFSR, was allocated after ESSER1 and was utilized for employee bonuses to recognize the additional work involved with offering school in the 2020-21 academic year, purchase PPE supplies and equipment, cover enhanced utility and substitute employee costs (quarantines, etc.), pay for employee overtime for classified employees, pay for construction of barriers and rental of additional equipment, etc. Such funds are still being used for some of these latter items. CFSR funds have also been used to assist students with learning loss, as well. ESSER2 funds will be used to assist with the design and installation of HVAC and other air quality improvements in the new high school, now planned to begin construction in the spring of 2023. The remainder of this document is intended to describe the intended use of the ESSER3 allocation.

ESSER3 Allocation: This final allocation of pandemic-related federal funds has a similar purpose to ESSER2. We will utilize 20% of those dollars for addressing learning loss, offering expanded learning opportunities, serving students most adversely affected by the 4th quarter (spring 2020) physical school closures, and the pandemic-affected 2020-21 school year (quarantines, extended-time eLearners, etc.), and engaging students most at risk of academic and related struggles. Thus, for example, the Mitchell School District will offer and provide, but not be limited to, the following programming:

- *Power Strong Interventionists:* A part-time academic tutor will be provided at each of our town elementary schools to address literacy, numeracy, and, potentially, other academic gaps. First priority will go to students who were not physically present in school during the 20-21 school year, then to those who were out of the building 25 days or more, and finally to those nearing proficiency levels. In all cases, the PSIs will engage with attention given to academic needs.
- *Expanded Learning Opportunities:* Because instructional time during the regular school day is finite, we will also offer educational programming outside of that time. Thus, we will be supporting a summer school credit-bearing program through Second Chance High School, interest-based courses during summers, vacations, and other outside of school times such as a creative writing course for students in grades 3-8, a middle school-based CTE program, an elementary school focused science camp, etc. More such courses will be suggested and offered as this program develops.
- *Other:* In many ways, these rather open-ended federal funds are something not seen before (or not seen in a very long time) in education. Thus, other programming will be considered as data retreats reveal other needs, educators, parents and other stakeholders suggest other needs and activities going forward.

- *Supplementing not Supplanting*: None of these programs will reduce in any way current offerings to students in need of additional help. Thus, Title I, Special Education, afterschool programming at LBW, Longfellow, and Middle School, Title VI, and ESL programs will all continue to operate to meet the ongoing needs of our students.

Currently, the dollars allocated to these programs are deemed more than adequate to meet all possible programming. The remaining 80% of the ESSER 3 funds would then be used to address air quality/construction projects through the construction of a new high school. Additional funding sources—capital outlay reserves, capital outlay bonds, etc.—would also be necessary for this project.

The Mitchell School District welcomes input on this plan for the use of ESSER3 funding. Such input can be offered through e-mail responses to (joseph.graves@k12.sd.us) or telephonic/personal contacts with school superintendent Joseph Graves at his office (995-3010, 800 West Eighth, Mitchell, SD 57301).