Section: Narratives - Assessing Impacts and Needs

SCHOOL ENTITY ARP ESSER APPLICATION

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) recognizes the extraordinary efforts made by School Entities, schools, and educators to support students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The application below requests information from School Entities about: (1) Needs and impacts resulting from the pandemic, (2) Stakeholder engagement in the development of plans to respond to these needs and impacts, (3) Specific elements in the School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds; and (4) Plans for monitoring and measuring progress. As submitted and accepted by PDE in final form, this application shall become part of the Grant Agreement for ARP ESSER funds as Appendix B. As used in this application, "School Entity" refers to the Grantee defined in the Grant Agreement.

ARP ESSER includes a significant focus on vulnerable student populations. Given these requirements, as well as PDE's own equity commitments, the School Entity application includes specific fields requesting information on programs to serve student groups that have experienced disproportionate impacts from the pandemic. Student groups are inclusive of the following:

- Students from low-income families;
- Students from each racial or ethnic group (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by race or ethnicity);
- Gender (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by gender);
- English learners;
- Children with disabilities (including infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA]);
- Students experiencing homelessness;
- Children and youth in foster care;
- Migrant students; and
- Other groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic that have been identified by the School Entity (e.g., youth involved in the criminal justice system, students who have missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures, and LGBTQ+ students).

Section I: Assessing Impacts and Needs

In this first section, School Entities are asked to describe the impact of the pandemic on their students, examine disproportionate impacts on specific student groups, and highlight the School Entity's promising practices in supporting student needs since March 2020.

Indicators of Impact

1. Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Describe how the School Entity has identified or will identify the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and well-being. Specifically, what methods (i.e., collecting and analyzing data and information from focus groups,

surveys, and local assessment results) were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts in four key areas: (1) Academic impact of lost instructional time, (2) Chronic absenteeism, (3) Student engagement, and (4) Social-emotional well-being?

	Methods Used to Understand Each Type of Impact
Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time	IEP Progress Monitoring is used to assess each individual student for their individual needs and impacts from the pandemic. We will continue to use progress monitoring of all IEP goals and objectives for students within our building. Data will continue to be collected daily and weekly, and reviewed to determine any gaps that have been impacted by student absences.
Chronic Absenteeism	We are using attendance records to track student attendance. Parent contact is made to discuss excessive student absences on an as-needed basis. Because of the ever-changing concerns and landscape of COVID, students who are chronically absent are missing important instruction time which severely impacts their development as parents can't support special education practices at home.
Student Engagement	Data is collected related to transition planning and transition activities that would allow our students to participate in a community-based assessment. As well as IEP goal progress monitoring. Our students thrive with in person learning opportunities and we have had to be creative during pandemic closures to continue to bring meaningful transition programming during this time.
Social-emotional Well-being	Families have reported back to school administration regarding the social and emotional well-being of the students, explaining the impacts of isolation. The change in routine has brought on increases in negative moods and anxiety/nervousness.
Other Indicators	

Documenting Disproportionate Impacts

2. Identify the **student** groups in the School Entity that faced particularly significant impacts from the pandemic. For each, provide specific strategies that were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts.

Student Group	Provide specific strategies that were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts
Children with disabilities (including infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA])	Continued administration assessment, routed through IEP goal and progress monitoring, as well as family responses.

Reflecting on Local Strategies

3. Provide the School Entity's assessment strategy that has been most effective in supporting the needs of students, in particular specific student groups most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Strategies two and three below are optional.

	Strategy Description
Strategy #1	All of our students fall within the category of disproportionate impacts. We have made strides to continue to offer safe and positive in-person learning for all students as we know the important development impact that has on our students. We have met as IEP teams to discuss any additional supports or services necessary to continue to provide FAPE for the student who is impacted due to quarantining or isolating due to COVID-19 to help with any continued regression in development.

    i. **Impacts that Strategy #1 best addresses:** (select all that apply)

☑ **Academic impact of lost instructional time**

☑ **Chronic absenteeism**

☑ **Student engagement**

☐ **Social-emotional well-being**

☐ **Other impact**

    ii. **If Other is selected above, please provide the description here:**

    iii. **Student group(s) that Strategy #1 most effectively supports:** (select all that apply)

☐ **Students from low-income families**

☐ **Students from each racial or ethnic group (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by race or ethnicity)**

☐ **Gender (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by gender)**

☐ **English learners**

☑ **Children with disabilities (including infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA))**

☐ **Students experiencing homelessness**

☐ **Children and youth in foster care**

☐ **Migrant students**

☐ **Other student groups: (provide description below)**

    iv. **If Other is selected above, please provide the description here.**

Reflecting on Local Strategies: Strategy #2

	Strategy Description
Strategy #2	

    i. **Impacts that Strategy #2 best addresses:** (select all that apply)

☐ **Academic impact of lost instructional time**

☐ **Chronic absenteeism**

☐ **Student engagement**

☐ **Social-emotional well-being**

☐ **Other impact**

    ii. **If Other is selected above, please provide the description here:**

    iii. **Student group(s) that Strategy #2 most effectively supports:** (select all that apply)

☐ **Students from low-income families**

☐ **Students from each racial or ethnic group (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by race or ethnicity)**

☐ **Gender (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by gender)**

☐ **English learners**

☐ **Children with disabilities (including infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA))**

☐ **Students experiencing homelessness**

- ☐ **Children and youth in foster care**
- ☐ **Migrant students**
- ☐ **Other student groups: (provide description below)**

    iv. **If Other is selected above, please provide the description here.**

Reflecting on Local Strategies: Strategy #3

	Strategy Description
Strategy #3	

    i. **Impacts that Strategy #3 best addresses:** (select all that apply)

- ☐ **Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time**
- ☐ **Chronic absenteeism**
- ☐ **Student engagement**
- ☐ **Social-emotional well-being**
- ☐ **Other impact**

    ii. **If Other is selected above, please provide the description here:**

    iii. **Student group(s) that Strategy #3 most effectively supports:** (select all that apply)

- ☐ **Students from low-income families**
- ☐ **Students from each racial or ethnic group (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by race or ethnicity)**
- ☐ **Gender (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by gender)**
- ☐ **English learners**
- ☐ **Children with disabilities (including infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA))**
- ☐ **Students experiencing homelessness**
- ☐ **Children and youth in foster care**

☐ **Migrant students**

☐ **Other student groups: (provide description below)**

    iv. **If Other is selected above, please provide the description here:**

Section: Narratives - Engaging Stakeholders in Plan Development

Section II: Engaging Stakeholders in Plan Development

In this second section, School Entities are asked to provide information on how stakeholders will be engaged in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, how stakeholder input will be utilized, and how the School Entity will make its School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds transparent to the public —all critical components in developing, implementing, and adjusting plans based on the differential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

Describe how the School Entity, in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, has engaged or will engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders. **(3,000 characters max)**

> (Stakeholders include students; families; LEA representation, School Entity teachers; School Entity principals; School Entity leaders; other educators; school staff; and unions. In addition, to the extent that the following groups are present in or served by the School Entity, stakeholders also include community partners, civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migrant students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students; and tribes.)

As a team within the school of expert staff, we identify the needs of our students as our program is hands-on through both 1 to 1 and group learning settings. Information is then shared with students, families, and other program services within the Children's Institute that support our students. This helps provide a continuum of care and quality education that promotes independence so our students with unique needs reach their full potential. Additionally, this information is shared when appropriate with local and state elected officials for continued partnerships.

5. Use of Stakeholder Input

Describe how the School Entity has taken or will take stakeholder and public input into account in the development of the School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds. **(3,000 characters max)**

We will outline the plan and the public can inquire as necessary through the website. Updates to families and students will be provided when appropriate.

6. Public Access to LEA Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds

Describe the process for development, approval, and making public the School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds. The School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds must be made publicly available on the School Entity website and submitted to PDE within 90 days of School Entity receipt of ARP ESSER funding, must be written in a language that parents/caregivers can understand, and must be provided in alternate format upon request by a parent/caregiver who is an individual with a disability. **(3,000 characters max)**

We have weekly meetings with the planning team to assess needs. Approval for the plan is made by CEO and Chief School Administrator. The approved Plan is posted to the website.

Section: Narratives - Plan for ARP ESSER Funds

Section III: Plan for ARP ESSER Funds

In this third section, School Entities are asked to reflect on both the impacts and needs described in Section I and stakeholder engagement described in Section II to provide a description of the School Entity plan for the use of ARP ESSER funds, that address the impact of lost instructional time as required by section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act.

7. Plan for Funds

How will the School Entity spend its ARP ESSER funds as outlined in the fields below? Please select from the options below and provide an explanation.

1. Continuity of Services: How will the School Entity use ARP ESSER funds to sustain services to address students' academic needs; students' and staff social, emotional, and mental health needs; and student nutrition and food services, as applicable?
2. Access to Instruction: How will the School Entity use ARP ESSER funds to support the goals of increasing opportunity to learn and equity in instructional delivery, as applicable? Consider regular attendance/chronic absenteeism data from the 2020-21 school year, including data disaggregated by student groups, in developing the response.
3. Mitigation Strategies: How will the School Entity use ARP ESSER funds to support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities and transportation services to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, as applicable? Consider the School Entity's Health and Safety Plan in developing the response.
4. Facilities Improvements: How will the School Entity use ARP ESSER funds to repair and improve school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission, address environmental health hazards, and/or improve ventilation? Consider the School Entity's Health and Safety Plan in developing the response.
5. Staff Recruitment, Support, and Retention: How will the School Entity use ARP-ESSER funds to maintain staff and provide professional training and/or improve working conditions for staff?
6. Other, Summer School, Extended Day, Other Student Programs

Plan for Funds	Explanation
Facilities Improvements	Enhancing the HVAC system by adding air filtration components will assist with cleaning the air for all students and staff. Air quality is critical for the health of those who occupy our school building. It helps provide a greater volume of fresh air to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and lower the risk of exposure both in-room and room-to-room transmission. This enhancement will help to keep the students in school, which is

Plan for Funds	Explanation
	the ideal learning environment for our students.
Access to Instruction	Providing an online curriculum grants access to the students at all times, regardless of the ability to be in school or not. This allows for continuing education and development for our students by increasing their opportunities to learn and having access to do so. The platforms provide daily lessons and assignments, access to job skill training, social skills, and current events.
Other, Summer School, Extended Day, Other Student Programs	Salary costs for compensatory services/summer programming to specifically address the loss of instruction for students impacted by the pandemic.

Section: Narratives - Monitoring and Measuring Progress

Section IV: Monitoring and Measuring Progress

In this fourth section, School Entities are asked to describe efforts to build local capacity to ensure high-quality data collection and reporting to safeguard funds for their intended purposes.

8. Capacity for Data Collection and Reporting

School Entities must continuously monitor progress and adjust strategies as needed. Describe the LEA's capacity and strategy to collect and analyze data (disaggregated by student group, where applicable), for each of the following measures:

	Data Collection and Analysis Plan (including plan to disaggregate data)
Student learning, including academic impact of lost instructional time during the COVID-19 pandemic	We continue to use IEP progress monitoring data to determine lost instructional time and learning. We also use individual student daily data within their program books.
Opportunity to learn measures (see help text)	Daily or weekly data collection, reported quarterly on their IEP goals
Jobs created and retained (by number of FTEs and position type) (see help text)	We have created 2 FTE teacher positions and continue to retain them.
Participation in programs funded by ARP ESSER resources (e.g., summer and afterschool programs)	We created summer programming to specifically address loss of instruction for students impacted by the pandemic.

Section: Narratives - ARP ESSER Prior Approval

ARP ESSER PRIOR APPROVAL

School Entities that wish to expend ESSER funds on facilities initiatives may be permitted to:

- make facility upgrades to comply with American Disabilities Act requirements
- upgrade HVAC systems
- remediate mold, lead, and other sources of poor indoor air quality
- install mechanical ventilation and/or advanced filtration systems
- replace windows to allow for improved intake of fresh air
- replace plumbing to ensure safe drinking water—among other upgrades that improve the health and safety of school buildings.

All **capital expenditures** supported with federal funds must be pre-approved by PDE. Capital expenditures means expenditures to acquire capital assets (i.e., land, facilities, or equipment over $5,000 per unit) or expenditures to make additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations, or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life.

Construction means (A) the preparation of drawings and specifications for school facilities; (B) erecting, building, acquiring, altering, remodeling, repairing, or extending school facilities; (C) inspecting and supervising the construction of school facilities; and (D) debt service for such activities (ESEA section 7013(3), 20 U.S.C. § 7713(3)).

Directions: School Entities seeking prior approval for Construction/Renovation or Other Capital Expenditures must:

Complete the form for each contractor/project that will be supported with ARP ESSER funds. If using multiple vendors for one project, i.e., classroom expansion, enter total cost per vendor to equal the total budgeted cost of the "classroom expansion" project. Completed forms must be uploaded to this section. Prior to uploading forms, they must be signed off by your School Entity's Superintendent/CEO/Executive Director.

Will you be using a portion of your ARP ESSER funds for Construction and/or Other Capital Expenditures? If no please select 'No' and mark section complete.

Yes

In the table below, please provide the name and type (construction vs. other capital expenditure) of the proposed project and a brief description. Please enter each contractor/project on a separate line in the table.

Name of Proposed Project	Type of Project	Brief Description of Proposed Project
$424,591	Capital Expenditure	Enhancing the HVAC system by adding air filtration components which will assist with cleaning the air for all students and staff. This enhancement will help to keep the students in school, which is the ideal

Name of Proposed Project	Type of Project	Brief Description of Proposed Project
		learning environment for our students.

☑

CHECK HERE **- to assure that you have successfully uploaded your Prior Approval Form(s) if applicable.**

Section: Narratives - Health and Safety Plan Upload and URL

SCHOOL ENTITY HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN AND URL

Please upload your School Entity Health and Safety Plan and website URL below. Check the assurance indicating that you have completed your upload. Please name the file using your School Entity name followed by Health and Safety Plan. example: "*School Entity Name*-**Health and Safety Plan"**

School Entities are required to add the URL where the approved plan will be posted to the School Entity's public website. Please add the URL below.

https://www.amazingkids.org/student-family-resources

☑

Check Here - to assure that you have successfully uploaded your School Entity Health and Safety Plan.

Section: Budget - Instruction Expenditures

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Budget

$530,739.00

Allocation

$530,739.00

Budget Over(Under) Allocation

$0.00

INSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES

Function	Object	Amount	Description
1200 - SPECIAL PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	600 - Supplies	$38,000.00	TeachTown software providing curriculum and education programs that measurably improve the academic, behavioral and adaptive functioning of students with moderate to severe learning disabilities. Used for school year 2022-2023 and 2023-2024
1200 - SPECIAL PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	600 - Supplies	$31,531.00	PAES Curriculum helps to identify appropriate and measurable postsecondary goals based on age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and independent living. Used for students 14 and older around transition options after school.

Function	Object	Amount	Description
1200 - SPECIAL PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	600 - Supplies	$27,000.00	News-2-You (N2Y) provides technology-forward, age-appropriate solutions that enrich the lives of individuals with unique learning needs and those who support them through learning current events to social skills. Used for school year 2022-2023 and 2023-2024
1200 - SPECIAL PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	100 - Salaries	$9,617.00	Additional salary costs for compensatory services/summer programming we created to specifically address the loss of instruction for students impacted by the pandemic.
		$106,148.00	

Section: Budget - Support and Non-Instruction Expenditures

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Budget

$530,739.00

Allocation

$530,739.00

Budget Over(Under) Allocation

$0.00

SUPPORT AND NON-INSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES

Function	Object	Amount	Description
4000 - FACILITIES ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICES	500 - Other Purchased Services	$424,591.00	Enhancing the HVAC system by adding air filtration components will assist with cleaning the air for all students and staff.
		$424,591.00	

Section: Budget - Budget Summary

BUDGET SUMMARY

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
1000 Instruction	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
1100 REGULAR PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
1200 SPECIAL PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	$9,617.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$96,531.00	$0.00	$106,148.00
1300 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
1400 Other Instructional Programs – Elementary / Secondary	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
1600 * ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
1700 Higher Education Programs	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
1800 Pre-K	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
2000 SUPPORT SERVICES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
2100 SUPPORT SERVICES – STUDENTS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
2200 Staff Support Services	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
2300 SUPPORT SERVICES – ADMINISTRATION	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
2400 Health Support Services	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
2500 Business Support Services	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
2600 Operation and Maintenance	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
2700 Student Transportation	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
2800 Central Support Services	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
3000 OPERATION OF NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
3100 Food Services	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
3200 Student Activities	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
3300 Community Services	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
4000 FACILITIES ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$424,591.00	$0.00	$0.00	$424,591.00
	$9,617.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$424,591.00	$96,531.00	$0.00	$530,739.00
					Approved Indirect Cost/Operational Rate:			$0.00

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
							Final	$530,739.00