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**Portsmouth Public Schools American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Formula Fund Grant**

**Section 1: 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**. Portsmouth Public Schools has been awarded $46,741,523.12 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Theodore Faulk, Chief Financial Officer, at 757-393-8435.

**Section 2: 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](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. Portsmouth Public Schools will use approximately $3,420,000.00 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below.

Funds will be used to provide cleaning, sanitation and hygiene supplies to continue in the safe disinfecting of schools. In addition, personal protective equipment (PPE) and other items such as electrostatic sprayers, air purifiers and disinfectants will be purchased to ensure that students, staff and visitors are protected from COVID-19.

**Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning**

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 afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. Portsmouth Public Schools will use approximately $14,964,500.00 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

Portsmouth Public Schools plans to address unfinished learning through the allocation of funds for the following: creation of a Virtual Support Center that will provide virtual instructional and tutoring assistance to students and their families during after school hours and on Saturdays; additional supplemental tutoring services for elementary and secondary students; instructional software resources to supplement classroom instruction; instructional materials, supplies and manipulatives for use in the classroom; virtual learning for K – 12th grade students through Virtual Virginia; and replacement computing devices (i.e., Chromebooks) for Pre-K – 12th grade students.

**Section 4: Other Uses of Funds**

Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act permits school divisions to use the ARP Act ESSER III funding not reserved to address unfinished learning to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways. Portsmouth Public Schools will use approximately $28,357,023.12 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

Portsmouth Public Schools will utilize funds for other uses as follows: HVAC replacement projects at 11 schools; window and door replacement at one school; replacement of school furniture and playground equipment at multiple school locations; upgrades and renovations to school libraries in all 22 schools; replacement of 15 school buses; contracted services for nurses; and contracted services for hearing and vision teachers for our hearing and vision impaired population.

**Section 5: Addressing Students’ Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

In Portsmouth Public Schools, the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of the division’s students are crucial priorities in managing our schools and classrooms. As a result, Portsmouth Public Schools created the Here to Help campaign to provide assistance to our students through interaction with school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers and other professionals/agencies that provide them with assistance throughout the school year. This program is consistently monitored and updated as new information or resources become available. Information about the Here to Help campaign and how it assists our students can be found at [www.ppsk12.us/heretohelp](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/MXvuKlqbPKHzNtmesAccDg~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRh-a75P0QfaHR0cDovL3d3dy5wcHNrMTIudXMvaGVyZXRvaGVscFcHc2Nob29sbUIKYBh5exhgSSSbglIbVGhlb2RvcmUuRmF1bGtAcG9ydHNrMTIuY29tWAQAAAAB).

**Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment**

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Portsmouth Public Schools conducted consultation in the following ways:

* We sought input from employees, building administrators, central office administrators, local government agencies, students, families and the general public.
* The public and stakeholders were afforded the opportunity to provide input and comments on the Plan during the School Board’s regular meeting on January 20, 2022.
* The public also has the opportunity to speak on non-agenda topics at each monthly School Board meeting.

**Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public**

Portsmouth Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

* The plan is posted at <https://www.ppsk12.us/COVID19Supports/arp>.
* Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Lauren Nolasco, Chief Communications Officer, at 757-393-8743.