



UNIVERSITY LABORATORY SCHOOLS

Illinois State University

LEA Plan for Use of ARP ESSER III Funds 2022-2023 School Year

Introduction

Under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III ARP Fund (ESSER III), the Department awards grants to State Educational Agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. LEAs must provide services to students and teachers in public schools as required under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The ISU Laboratory Schools were allotted **\$142,045** in ESSER III funds for FY23. We have outlined a spending plan below which supports interventions that respond to the social, emotional, mental health and academic needs of students, especially those who were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Personnel

Thomas Metcalf School (Metcalf) hired a full-time Faculty Associate to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) students this year. Since enrollment of ESL students at Metcalf has increased over the last couple of years, this addition to the staff is crucial. The grant will cover .60 of the teacher's annual salary which is equal to **\$39,068**.

Metcalf will host an Extended School Year (ESY) program for 1st and 2nd grade students in June 2023. Metcalf plans to hire four Faculty Associates and four extra-help employees to support ESY, and staff will be paid a stipend of \$4,000 each; the total of this expense will be **\$32,000**. This program will assist students in closing the learning gap created within a remote learning setting during the 2020-2021 school year.

University High School (U-High) plans to purchase the ALEKS math assessment for student use this summer. With participation of up to 240 students, this program will require a teacher to administer the test as well as evaluate the results. U-High will pay this ALEKS Coordinator **\$2,000**. The program will run from June through August 2023. In addition to the math assessment, U-High will offer the annual literacy program. U-High will also hire a Literacy Coordinator at **\$1,000**; the program will also operate from June – August 2023.

Fringe Benefits

This grant will cover benefit expenses for a Faculty Associate who was hired full-time to teach ESL students. The benefit costs are estimated at .4760%. This fringe benefit expense should be approximately **\$18,596**.

The ALEKS Coordinator, Literacy Coordinator, ESY Faculty Associates and ESY extra-help

teachers will be selected through a process lead by each building principal. Fringe benefit rates will be estimated at an average; Faculty Associates and Coordinators are set at .4760% while extra help is estimated at .0765%. The fringe benefits cost for this group should be approximately **\$10,268**.

Materials & Supplies

U-High will utilize funds to purchase the ALEKS math assessment for their summer enrichment program. While the **\$8,800** allotment will not cover the cost for all students, we have set aside enough to cover approximately 250 assessments. Metcalf will provide this assessment for their students as well. Offering this summer enrichment programs helps to promote and support student success in the next academic year.

Metcalf's ESY program will utilize funds to purchase instruction materials and daily snacks. These purchases include, but are not limited to items such as pencils, crayons, markers, construction paper, glue, post-its, whiteboards, cookie sheets, paper bags, Ziplock bags, Scholastic weekly readers, writing journals, math manipulatives, alphabet bubbles, Play-Doh, word books, STEM tools, Alphabet Sound teaching tubs, diagraph puzzles, sentence strips, Bob Books reading sets, Read Naturally reading programs, Funemics teacher set, Teach Outside the Box kits, and office supplies. Since the curriculum will be individualized based on student need, and could include instruction in Language Arts, Math, and/or Language, the allotment for these expenditures is **\$10,197**.

Subscriptions

Metcalf also plans to purchase one-month subscriptions to IXL and SeeSaw. These subscriptions will be utilized to evaluate progress in Math as well as monitor behavior. Metcalf has set aside **\$650** to cover the costs of these subscriptions.

Indirect Costs

The maximum allowable rate determined by the sponsor is 15.88%. That indirect cost amount is **\$19,466**.

Conclusion

Per United States Department of Education (USDE) guidance, the Use of Funds Plan must reserve no less than twenty percent of our total allocation to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions such as summer learning/summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after-school programs, or extended school year programs. The district has outlined a spending plan that will expend approximately **thirty-six percent** of that allocation on an Extended School Year (ESY) program. This program was created not only to address learning loss but also to respond to the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students, specifically the 1st and 2nd grade student population that was disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds will be used toward materials, supplies, and personnel costs as outlined above. We will ensure that our interventions will be successful by collecting data on academic growth as well as social, emotional, and mental health challenges. The students who register for ESY will be evaluated at the beginning of the program, monitored throughout, and evaluated again at the end of the program. These results will outline growth and deficiencies as well as set benchmarks for the upcoming school year.

The remaining ARP ESSER funds may be used for the same allowable purposes at ESSER

and ESSER II, including hiring new staff and avoiding layoffs. Thomas Metcalf School (Metcalf) hired a new full-time Faculty Associate to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) students this year. Since enrollment of ESL students at Metcalf has increased over the last couple of years, this addition to the staff is crucial. The grant will cover .60 of the teacher's annual salary, which includes approximately **forty-one percent** of the grant's total allocation.

The district has decided not to use grant funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with CDC guidelines. Since the Laboratory Schools are a department within the College of Education at Illinois State University (ISU), we already receive support in this area. Because these requirements are already addressed through ISU, so we will be utilizing the funds to assist students in other ways.

Finally, the district engaged in meaningful consultation with the following groups/stakeholders to develop the grant proposal: district administrators, school administrators, teachers, and other school staff. We met to review the grant proposal and generate ideas based on USDE guidance. We did not consult any of the following groups, as they are not served by the Local Education Agency (LEA): tribes, civil rights organizations, or groups representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, or other underserved students. Once the grant is awarded, we will seek and take public input from Lab Schools students and families through commitment surveys and face-to-face meetings.