



Avoca CSD ARP-ESSER Expenditure Plan



The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Plan provided approximately \$9 billion in federal monies to NYS schools to help offset costs incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic and help schools provide the services necessary to ensure students successfully transition to a traditional school setting. Avoca CSD is slated to receive approximately \$1.6 million over a three or four year period.

As a condition of receiving those funds, each school district is required to develop a plan of how those funds will be expended and how the district will prioritize non-recurring expenses. Included below is the plan for how Avoca CSD intends to spend those funds over each school year in which the funds are anticipated to be available. (Note: The following plan is subject to revision as students' needs are reassessed.)

2021-2022 through 2024-2025 School Years

- The district will hire additional teachers as needed to adhere to any Department of Health guidelines that may remain in place when students return to school. These positions will be temporary, remaining in place only as long as are necessary to adhere to DOH guidance.
- The district will hire two additional intervention teachers to address the learning loss that resulted during the COVID-19 pandemic. These intervention specialists will work to close skill gaps that have developed over the past year and ensure that students are prepared to be successful as they return to a traditional school setting. These positions are temporary, and they will not be continued after the federal monies have been expended.
- The district will expand the hours of the new Learning Commons until 6:30 p.m. each school night. Students will be free to use the space as a location to wait for practices, to work individually or collaborate with their peers on school work, and to have expanded access to the school network and internet capabilities. Additionally, a new Teacher Aide position will be created to assist in the Learning Commons during the school day and to supervise the Commons until it closes each evening. Usage rates of the extended hours will be assessed on an ongoing basis. If the use of the additional times proves popular among students, the district plans to continue these extended hours after the federal monies have been expended by absorbing the cost into the annual school budget.
- The district will offer a formal after school program for students in grades K-6. This after school program will focus on enrichment opportunities and offer students the opportunity to explore a wide range of topics and interests. A coordinator will be hired to organize and supervise the program. Additionally, stipends will be provided to those individuals who develop and offer the various after school opportunities. If the use of the additional times proves popular among students, the district plans to continue these extended

hours after the federal monies have been expended by absorbing the cost into the annual school budget.

- The district will expand the range of enrichment opportunities that are offered to students during the normal school day. These opportunities may include guest presenters and formal programs such as the Project Adept Explorations Program. If possible, these opportunities will be continued after the federal grant monies have been expended by increasing the district's utilization of aidable BOCES services that support these types of programs.
- The district will hire an additional staff member to address our students' social and emotional wellbeing, as the period of the pandemic has resulted in unique stressors on our students and their families. It is not expected that this position will continue after students have successfully returned to a traditional school setting and the federal monies have been expended.
- The district will provide dedicated professional learning focused on building the internal leadership capabilities of our teachers and administrators. This professional learning will be guided by an outside consultant. Although the initial start-up costs related to this professional development will be fully funded by the federal grant monies, there may be small ongoing costs that are absorbed into the annual school budget.