

American Rescue Plan Act Information

Delaware Valley School District American Rescue Plan (ARP Act) 2021-2024

Plan Public Comment Requirement:

All public school districts, Local Educational Agency, (LEA) participating in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) are required to establish a plan for the usage of the ARP funds that complies with the program's guidelines. These guidelines further state that the ARP plan created by the District should allow for the continuation of the programs or program related items beyond the availability of these federal funds.

Prior to the District's ARP plan becoming final, it will be posted publicly to allow for public comments. The District encourages all of its stakeholders to comment on the plan via the email address established for this purpose. Our stakeholders include parents, teachers, students, community members and others. Public comments on this plan will be considered as the District finalizes this plan.

Public Comment Email: askdv@dvsd.org

The public is reminded that this is a draft document. To date, we have received little guidance regarding allowable expenses from the Federal or State Departments of Education. As such, this plan is subject to change.

The final ARP plan for the Delaware Valley School District will be posted on the website and we welcome stakeholder feedback at askdv@dvsd.org

The draft plan is outlined below.

DVSD American Rescue Plan

On March 13, 2020 Governor Wolf declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all schools in the Commonwealth ceased in person instruction.

On March 13 students in the Delaware Valley School District took home textbooks and learning materials. Our school district used the mandated school closure (March 16-27) as an opportunity to plan and prepare for the instructional days and weeks to come. During this time, we formulated a continuity of education plan that

included distribution of Chromebooks, established a process for ongoing distribution of instructional materials, and meal distribution. New learning began on March 30 and continued throughout the remainder of the school year. Teachers were posting assignments and students were submitting work using technology or traditional paper/pencil work submission.

Our health and safety plan was developed in conjunction with our intermediate unit and community surveys were conducted during the summer to design a plan for the 2020-2021 school year. In August, 2020 the DVSD School Board Directors made the decision to open schools 5 days per week. The reopening plan offered the following instructional models for students:

1. In person instruction 5 days per week.
2. ZOOM – students learning from home and linking into the classroom synchronously using ZOOM and a new LMS system Schoology.
3. DV Cyber Academy – students could enroll in the one of two cyber school options
4. Home Schooling
5. External Cyber or private school

Approximately 75% of our students opted to return to in-person instruction. At the end of each marking period, students/families had the option of changing instructional models. Having these check points allowed us to plan for students returning to in-person instruction, while maintaining our established safety procedures.

Prior to March 13, 2020, our school district was not a technology 1:1 school district. We utilized Chromebooks on mobile carts, had laptop and desktop computers as well as an assortment of iPads. Moving to 1:1 instructional model was an extreme challenge. Also implementing a new LMS system, finding cameras, document cameras and other systems to facilitate learning was a monumental undertaking.

Health and safety procedures were developed and implemented prior to students returning to our schools in the fall. School safety professional development was focused on COVID-19 prevention as well as on the LMS (learning management system) for instructional delivery. Also, maintaining social distancing, personal protective equipment, cleaning and disinfecting materials and procedures, and building and bus procedures (especially for serving breakfast and lunch) all needed to be part of our comprehensive planning and training.

Initially, we utilized ESSER I funds for technology tools and resource materials (such as textbooks and associated online subscriptions).

ESSER II & III funds were prioritized for health and safety, continuity of education and addressing student learning needs. ESSER II funds = \$2,324,306 and ESSER III = \$4,701,398. Total = \$7,025,704.

ESSER II and III – Proposed use of funds (**proposed expenditures linked to District Strategic Plan**):

1. Professional Personnel – (1. Academics) (\$167,720)

Rationale - three additional teachers were hired for the 2020-2021 school year to facilitate ZOOM/remote learning option for elementary students. Each grade level in each school building had one elementary teacher assigned to be the remote/ZOOM instructor. On the secondary level, teachers simultaneously taught in-person and ZOOM/remote learners. For elementary classrooms, we started the year with each classroom teaching either in-person or using the remote platform. This allowed the instruction to be geared toward the students learning from home and allowed for a smoother transition to the remote learning environment. When/if students returned to the school building they were enrolled in the homeroom with their ZOOM teacher.

2. Technology Resources – (1. Academics & 2. 21st Century Skills) (\$1,019,749)

Rationale - In order to upgrade to 1:1 technology tools and to keep the synchronous instruction using ZOOM and Schoology, teacher and students needed technology resources and this will be an ongoing cost. As previously stated prior to March 13, 2020 the Delaware Valley School District was not a 1:1 school system. We propose the use of ESSER funds to increase student/faculty access to technology

tools and continuously maintain those systems. Hardware, software and professional development needs will be ongoing to ensure instructional tools and equipment are available for the consistent implementation of our educational programs.

3. Upgrade a portion of the HVAC system -(1. Academics, 3. Educating the Whole Child a & 4. Community) (\$1,120,108)

Rationale - Due to COVID-19, the need to safely correct classroom airflow became a priority. As we implemented contact tracing procedures, we also used our HVAC system to create negative airflow systems in our school buildings where needed, such as nurse's offices and classrooms. Over the past several years, our HVAC system has been on a capital projects list and we have been gradually upgrading the system in each facility. However, due to COVID-19 this became a health and safety priority. ESSER II & III funds are proposed to complete the HVAC systems upgrade. Below is an overview of the scope of this project and the timeline for completion.

2021

- DDMS Cooling Tower – The cooling tower at DDMS works in conjunction with the boiler to condition the heat pump water loop. The water loop allows the heat pumps to heat and cool the building by conditioning the air within the classrooms, administration, and common spaces. The tower is beyond its useful life and must be replaced. If it were to fail, the building would not have conditioned air.
- DV HS and MS Control Replacement – Under this project, the antiquated, inefficient and unreliable pneumatic control system will be replaced with a state of the art digital control system. New valves and actuators will be installed in select equipment so that the entire building will now be covered by the new system. This will allow full control of the MS and HS building. Failure of the existing system results in spaces overheating resulting in poor air indoor quality.

2022 - 2024

- DVHS MZ2 – This unit was installed with the original building construction and will be replaced with a unit that meets current air filtration standards. The new unit will comply with current mechanical codes, include UV lamps, and provide a higher quality of ventilation.
- Pool Unit – Replacement of the pool's energy recovery unit to improve efficiency and air quality. This unit was installed with the original pool addition and will be replaced with a unit that meets current air filtration standards. The new unit will comply with current mechanical codes, include UV lamps, and provide a higher quality of ventilation.
- DDMS Rooftop Units – The rooftop units are original building construction from the mid-1990s and provide make up air to support the heat pump system and condition the larger spaces such as the gymnasium, library, and auditorium. They will be replaced with units that meets current air filtration standards. The new units will comply with current mechanical codes, include UV lamps, and provide a higher quality of ventilation.
- SES/DDMS/DDPS Boilers – The boilers for the three buildings are beyond the expected life span for oil-fired equipment. If a boiler were to fail, the facility would be left without heat. The rooftop units utilize hot water from the boilers to condition instructional spaces. As such, they are part of the mechanical systems that control the air quality within the building.
- DDPS Controls - Under this project, the antiquated, inefficient and unreliable pneumatic control system will be replaced with a state of the art digital control system. New valves and actuators will be installed in select equipment so that the entire building will now be covered by the new system. This will allow full control of the building. Failure of the existing system results in spaces overheating resulting in poor air indoor quality.
- DDPS Rooftop Units - The rooftop units are original building construction from the late 1990s and condition the larger spaces such as the gymnasium and library. They will be replaced with

units that meets current air filtration standards. The new units will comply with current mechanical codes, include UV lamps, and provide a higher quality of ventilation.

Our school buildings are used by our students, faculty, and the community throughout the year.

4. ELA Programs – (1. Academics & 3. Educating the Whole Child) (\$404,919)

New reading textbook and technology tools for our K-6 ELA program.

Rationale - former program online licenses will expire June, 2021. We received two quotes and evaluated two programs but decided to keep the current program and move to the most current copyright. Having the text resources and online licenses is critical for students to access the instructional materials for classroom instruction, tiered intervention (including for Title I and ELL learners K-6), and tutoring. This resource will be a key component for the prevention of student learning loss and will allow students and families access to these curricular materials in school and at home using the virtual platform and resources.

5. Mathematics Programs/Textbooks – (1. Academics) (\$645,558)

K-5 mathematics and high school Algebra I program for the 2022-2023 or 2023-2024 school year.

Rationale - Address Learning Loss. We will begin the textbook and resource evaluation process during the fall 2021 and purchase these text resources. Texts and appropriate supplemental instructional tools will be used for RTI and address student learning needs (IST, ELL, IEP, subgroups). Also funds used to purchase 6th grade textbook.

6. Behavioral Health Services – (3. Educating the Whole Child) (\$288,344)

We propose to hire or contract with a certified clinician to address student mental health/behavioral health needs.

Rationale – An added social worker would help us address student mental/behavioral health needs related to the pandemic, learning loss, educational concerns, social emotional learning needs. This would be a three-year contracted position and we would use ESSER funds to help support the hiring and expansion of our SEL programs. We currently have no social workers on the K-5 level.

7. Delaware Valley High School Cafeteria/Multipurpose Room – (3. Educating the Whole Child & 4. Community) (\$2,003,605)

Rationale – current facilities will not accommodate 6 feet social distancing for students to safely eat meals in our high school. The project involves an 8,000 SF (approximate) addition that will serve as a multipurpose room that can be used as flexible instructional space. During the 2020-2021 school year, we have reallocated space throughout the district to facilitate social distancing during meals. We have utilized our gymnasiums, art rooms, lecture halls, auditoriums, stage areas and music rooms. Any large area has been reconfigured and measured to ensure proper social distancing during meals. Currently, we have approximately 75% of our students enrolled in the school building. We anticipate a return of the remaining students (25%) at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. Without additional space in our high school (our largest school building), this becomes a school safety, social distancing concern. We plan to construct a basic addition to our cafeteria. If approved, construction would begin in September, 2021 and would be completed in early winter 2021-2022. This cafeteria addition would allow us to feed an additional 150 students in each of the three lunch periods (total seating capacity 450 students per day). The goal of the space is to provide flexibility and options to distance students for dining and instruction. The project will include 3 new mechanical units on the roof that will provide heating and air-conditioning along with ventilation with to meet current building codes. In addition, the system will have filtration and UV lamps to improve indoor air quality.

8. Cyber School Tuition – (external or district cyber school program) (1. Academics) (\$572,157)

Rationale – due to the pandemic there was a significant increase in costs associated with on-line learning options. The district had a significant increase in the number of students enrolling in either our own district cyber academy or for external PA approved cyber charter schools.

9. Programs and Services to address student learning needs. (1. Academics & 3. The Whole Child) (\$654,610)

Rationale - The balance of ESSER funds shall be utilized to address student learning needs and subgroup learning needs as identified by high quality assessments. These funds would be used to design intervention programs, purchase additional materials, professional development and hire staff to provide the supports for all students, and specifically for subgroup students/families. Programs would include: targeted remediation, tutoring, SEL (Social Emotional Learning) interventions, student attendance, and other unforeseen school/community based needs.

10. Building Operation Costs for Sanitizing/Cleaning. (1. Academics, 3. Educating the Whole Child & 4. Community) (\$148,934)

Rationale – Additional costs of labor and supplies to sanitize all district facilities and equipment during the 2020 – 2021 school year.

This plan has been reviewed by our school board and is open for public stakeholder comment. We will review this plan every six months to track the use of funds, the implementation of the plan and to make necessary adjustments to the plan.

The plan will be on public display on our website at: www.dvdsd.org

Public comments may be submitted to askdv@dvdsd.org