



ESSER III FUNDING NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1 July 15, 2021

FEDERAL GRANT FUNDING PLAN

The intent and purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, ESSER III funding is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students.

To be considered for funding, the District must comply with each of the following requirements:

1. Provide the methodology used by the Local Education Agency (LEA) for the delivery of services or assistance to students and staff in public schools; and
2. Demonstrate compliance with Section 2001 which states that at least 20% of funding must be set aside for learning loss mitigation. Allowable activities may include: afterschool programming, summer school, extended day/year programs, and programming targeted to ESEA subgroups, students experiencing homelessness and children and youth in foster care.

Authorized by ARP Act of 2021, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund.

FEATURED ARTICLES:

Stakeholder input on funding plan

Safe return to in-person instruction plan

Allowable program activities

ESSER III Funding Plan

Six-month review of plans through the end of the grant in 2024

UT Elementary School's allocation of ESSER III federal grant funds is \$506,335. There are 28 allowable activities. Of this total allocation at least 20% (\$101,267) must be set-aside for learning loss mitigation. The funding plan described in this document includes a total of seven (7) allowable activities.

In the aggregate, the funding plan includes a total of \$438,621, or 87% of the total allocation to address learning loss. The remaining 13% will be used for other activities in an effort to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The funding plan includes planned expenditures over a 3-year period: school years 2021 -2022 through 2023-2024.

UT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STAKEHOLDER INPUT

The District engaged stakeholders in an opportunity to provide meaningful consultation through online surveys regarding the ESSER III grant opportunity on May 24, 2021. The following were invited to participate in the survey:

1. Students
2. Parents
3. School district staff (central and special education administrators) teachers, other administrators and auxiliary staff.
4. Other stakeholders as designated by ESSER III guidelines.

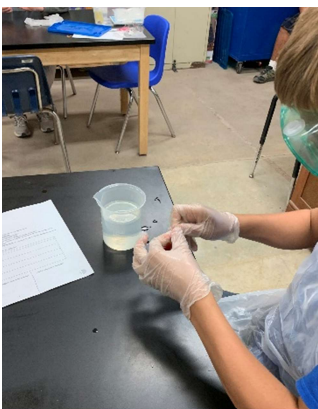
Additional targeted surveys and focus groups were held to dig deeper into student academic and mental health supports. The top 5 most identified areas include:

1. Academic – extended learning
2. Supported teachers
3. Social-emotional support services
4. Technology and materials
5. Parent support

The ESSER III Communication Plan is available on our district's website at: www.utelementary.org/ESSER

The District used the quantitative and qualitative stakeholder input to develop a draft *ESSER III Funding Plan* and a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan*.

SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PLAN



The *UT Elementary School Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan* was initially developed during the summer of 2020 with stakeholder input. It has been continuously reviewed and revised as Texas Education Agency, APH and CDC guidance has changed safety protocols over the past year and a half.

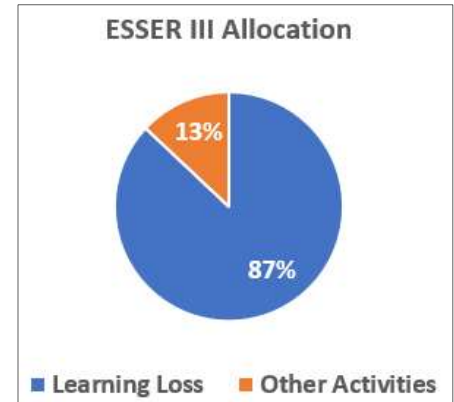
The safety and well-being of all staff and visitors are a priority for UT Elementary School as the district welcomes all students and campus-based personnel back to our campuses for the 2021-2022 school year. UT Elementary School will not offer remote instruction for the 2021-2022 school year, so all students will be required to attend school on campus unless a medical condition precludes attendance.

UT Elementary School will continue to monitor and update practices and protocols based on recommendations by state and local agencies, CDC, APH, and the Texas Education Agency. The goal is to collaboratively ensure that all students, employees, and visitors in district facilities remain safe and secure to the greatest extent possible.

ESSER III ALLOWABLE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

There are twenty-eight (28) allowable program activities. The allowable activities are listed on the COVID-19/ESSER webpage at: utelementary.org/ESSER. Of the 28 activities, there are 8 that address strategies to mitigate learning loss. Another 8 that address strategies related to the safe return to in-person instruction. The remaining activities are generally related to addressing the needs of the students and staff as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is great flexibility in the use of the funds over a span of five (5) fiscal years from 2019-2020 (effective March 2020) through a roll-forward period of 2023-2024. The District has determined that it is in the best interests of the students to expend the funds in next fiscal year, 2021-2022 through the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The ESSER III Grant Application allows for amendments to the original grant application until July 5, 2023. As the District implements the grant activities and conducts ongoing planning, including review of stakeholder input, the District may amend the application to include additional allowable program activities.



ESSER III FUNDING PLAN: TARGETED ACTIVITIES

The targeted five (5) program activities selected by the District leadership after reviewing stakeholder feedback and student academic needs at the end of the 2020-2021 school year are:

1. Addressing learning loss
2. Supplemental afterschool clubs, tutoring and Saturday learning opportunities with software subscriptions and additional intervention materials and resources.
3. Summer learning opportunities in core subject areas. Including stipends for interventionists, materials and resources.
4. Professional services to provide additional professional development for instructional and leadership staff, including extra duty pay for the attendees.
5. Replacement of instructional technology

ONGOING PLANNING AND FEEDBACK

During the life of the ESSER III grant, the District is required to continually review the *ESSER III Funding Plan* and the *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan*. We seek the ongoing feedback from our stakeholders to ensure that we meet academic and safety needs of our students.

While we thank you for your feed-back during the initial stakeholder input surveys, we request your continued feedback through surveys, focus group meetings, etc. on an ongoing basis.

UT University Elementary School

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Visit UT Elementary School's
ESSER webpage to view the
District's plans:

www.elementary.org/ESSER

Mission Statement

The University of Texas Elementary School's mission is:

- 1. To develop students into lifelong learners through rigorous, research-based curricula, individualized instruction, high expectations, and a nurturing environment that includes parental and community involvement;*
- 2. To provide opportunities for professional development and outreach for The University of Texas at Austin's academic units; and*
- 3. To serve as a model of an exemplary educational program for diverse learners.*

MANAGEMENT BOARD

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Mark J. Williams



LEADERSHIP TEAM

The development of the *ESSER III Funding Plan* and *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan* was a collaborative effort between the Superintendent and Cabinet (Leadership Team).

Dr. Melissa M. Chavez, Superintendent
Dr. Nicole Whetstone, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Autumn Leal, Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Jenny Davis, Director of Finance
Lori Moore, Director of Technology
Melissa Ruffin, Director of Curriculum
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The University of Texas at Austin
Division of Diversity and
Community Engagement

The University of Texas Elementary School is a unit within the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin.