

EAST ST. LOUIS SCHOOL DISTRICT 189



ESSER III Plan SY2021-2022

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SCHOOL DISTRICT 189 VISION

Students in East St Louis School District 189 are supported physically, socially, and emotionally in a safe and nurturing environment to achieve academic success that prepares them for college, the workforce, and citizenship in the 21st century.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 189 MISSION

The Mission of School District 189 is to cultivate the potential in every student to thrive as a global citizen by inspiring a love of learning and civic engagement, by challenging and supporting every student to achieve academic excellence, and by embracing the full richness of our community.

PURPOSE

Under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III ARP Fund (ESSER III), funds have been allocated 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. This document outlines how funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER III will be used by East St. Louis School District 189. This plan focuses on four areas to ensure the safety of our students and staff as well as addresses learning loss that occurred during the COVID-19 global pandemic. The four areas of focus include:

1. Prevention and mitigation strategies
2. Addressing academic impact of lost instructional time
3. Other interventions
4. Responding to the needs of all students

Section 1: PREVENTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

East St. Louis School District 189 is committed to using multiple mitigation strategies in order to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning. Please see our [Return to Learn Plan](#) for details. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a layered mitigation approach, including improvements to building ventilation, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and lower the risk of exposure to it and other air-borne illnesses. School District 189 will utilize ESSER III funds to repair, upgrade and replace the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems across all schools and buildings to improve air quality for students and staff. ESSER III funds will also be used for cleaning equipment as well as additional custodians and warehouse staff to ensure appropriate cleaning and sanitizing of our campuses.

Section 2: ADDRESSING IMPACT OF LOST INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

East St. Louis School District 189 will use ESSER III funding to support the recovery of loss of learning from school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 as well as to prevent the subsequent effect of further learning loss. More than 20 percent of the School District 189 ESSER III allocation is dedicated to summer learning, afterschool programming, and more to address the impact of lost instructional time. Specific activities include:

Learning Loss

- Transitional Bridging and Jumpstart Programs (Grades K, 5, and 9)
- Kindergarten Readiness Programs (Preschool)
- Summer School Programs (K-12)
- After School Tutoring (K-8)
- Credit Recovery Programs (9-12)
- Math Curriculum and Professional Development (K-12)
- Reading/Writing Curriculum and Professional Development (K-12)
- Professional Learning Communities and Curriculum Revisions

Enrichment Programs

To support College and Career Readiness and re-engage students

- Dual Credit Programs for ELA and Math (Grades 9-12)
- Career and Technical Education Dual Credit Programs (10-12)
- STEAM Enhanced Curriculum (5-8)

Section 3: OTHER INTERVENTIONS

Additional ESSER III funds are prioritized for interventions and strategies that will have the greatest impact to serve student groups most affected by the pandemic and address the learning loss needs of all students. ESSER funds are allocated to schools as well as for district-wide activities and are based on student needs. These include, but are not limited to:

Academic

- Academic support staff including academic interventionists and district-wide facilitators
- Professional development and improvement of instruction services

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

- Social and Emotional Learning staff including counselors, psychologists, behavior improvement specialists
- Contracted, onsite mental health services

Safe and Healthy Environment

- Health supplies
- Additional school nurses
- Additional aides and bus monitors

Section 4: RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

School District 189 serves approximately 5,000 students in preschool through 12th grade. Nearly all East St. Louis students enter school at-risk for academic failure due to extreme poverty with 99.6% of students categorized as low-income (Illinois School Report Card, 2021). According to the 2021 Illinois School Report Card, 2.4% of our students were categorized as homeless (underreported), 96.8% of students are African-American and 1.6% are Hispanic (.8% are white). The percentage of students who are English Language Learners is 1.2% and the overall percentage of students with a diagnosed disability (qualifying for special education services) is 13%.

The interventions School District 189 will implement with ESSER III funds will decisively support students from low-income families and students of color to advance equity in education. Targeted program activities will additionally impact sub-population groups including but not limited to the following:

- English learners
- Children with disabilities
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Children and youth in foster care

For example, children with disabilities will receive additional targeted services through staffing of four Special Education teachers plus additional critical intervention resources.

MAXIMIZING IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

The research is clear; there is no substitute for a high-quality, in-person teaching experience to ensure academic success. East St. Louis School District 189 continues its commitment to providing mitigating measures and maximizing high-quality instruction time to re-engage and meet the needs of our students. This includes providing students with physical, social and emotional support so that each child may reach the full potential of their academic success.

ESSER funds are allocated for additional instructional staff, aides, and support staff to maximize in-person instruction and advance equity and inclusivity in student participation. Staff will receive professional development not only in curriculum and academic interventions but also in equity, trauma-informed, and restorative practices to provide a positive climate and culture for students. Schools play a vital role in helping students to deal with any trauma the pandemic may have caused. School District 189 is committed to providing the social-emotional support that our students need and to intentionally engage all families in the educational environment.

DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN & CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The interventions outlined in the ESSER III Plan were selected based on current, ongoing and trend student data needs, including:

- Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) Benchmark K-12 (Social Emotional Learning)
- Northwest Evaluation Assessment (NWEA) K-10 (Academic)
- Grade level Benchmark Assessments (3rd - 8th Grade)
- DOMO (internal data dashboard) Data for Student On Track Rates K-12
- DOMO Data for Attendance K-12 (Targeted Interventions)
- DOMO Data for Student Referrals, Suspensions, Expulsions (Social Emotional Learning)
- Branching Minds - Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Dashboard and Intervention Program
- Title School-Wide Needs Assessments (All Areas)
- Comprehensive and Targeted School Improvement Plans (All Areas)
- East St. Louis SD 189 District Strategic Plan (Targeted Interventions)

School District 189 leadership has also engaged stakeholders in the development of this plan and provided opportunities for meaningful feedback from the following: Students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff as well as their unions. Vested stakeholders represented the interests of children with disabilities, English language learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

Most intentionally, School District 189 invited public input regarding the use of ESSER funds through multiple Key Communicator Network (KCN) meetings and Superintendent Communication Council (SCC) meetings. KCN meetings are held quarterly as an opportunity for two-way dialogue between the Superintendent and Cabinet members with parents, guardians, community partners, and other stakeholders. Similarly, the Superintendent and Cabinet hold quarterly Superintendent Communication Council (SCC) meetings with representatives from each school campus, including building leadership, certified staff representatives, and non-certified staff representatives. ESSER funding was a topic of discussion at the KCN and SCC meetings held on 10/20/2021 and 2/23/2022 to gain direct feedback from these stakeholders.

Our community's resilience was exhibited by our students, families, and school staff as they navigated the COVID-19 crisis that shuttered our campuses in spring 2020 and most of SY2021. Our students reflect the local community: they are vibrant, resilient and strong. With targeted interventions and strategies as outlined in this plan, our students will rebound and achieve academic success that prepares them for a bright future.