

Refugio ISD ESSER III Use of Funds

Planning Process for ESSER III Application

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER III Federal Grant funding provides funding for student learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the safe-re-opening of schools. Refugio ISD made public the notice of intent to apply for ESSER III federal funding and provided opportunities for stakeholder input for the use of that funding. Input was sought from all stakeholders including: students, parents, school and district administrators, special education administrators, teachers, principals, staff, business members, church officials, and community members. Stakeholders representing the interests of children in foster care, and other underserved students were included in the planning. Activities were selected from the grant application allowable activities and will be used to address the following Refugio ISD goals:

- 1. Mitigate learning loss through targeted programs and services within and beyond the regular school day.*
- 2. Provide resources, both human and material, that enhance district COVID-19 response efforts.*
- 3. Accelerate in-person instruction and continuity of services for all students and families.*

The following data was used when determining the ESSER III use of funds.

Data Used for Planning:

- District Education Council Meeting Input (REIC)* Updated December 10, 2021. Committee reviewed and revised ESSER III Use of Funds and Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plans.
- Refugio County Emergency Management Weekly Team Meetings (Tuesdays)
- School Health Advisory Council Meeting Input, Active COVID-19 counts in Refugio County and Refugio Independent School District.
- Campus Level Meeting input, campus needs.
- Board planning for Use of Funds -May 27,2021
- Public Notice on Website and Social Media (May, June, July 2021)
- Stakeholder Survey (Available June 15, 2021 to July 15, 2021)
- Weekly Administrative Meetings (District & Campus level Personnel) May 3-Present
- Input during Public Hearing at School Board Meeting July 19, 2021

Process Used for Application Planning:

- Superintendent met with all campus and district administrators to ask for suggestions and to seek input from campus staff regarding resources needed to address COVID-19 related learning loss.

- Input solicited from all stakeholders through survey sent to students, parents, community members, staff, school and district administrators, special education administrators, teachers, and principals, and stakeholders representing the interests of children, including children with disabilities, English Language Learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and underserved populations.
- Public Comment sessions were held at Board meetings to gather input for use of ESSER III funds and prioritization of identified needs.
- Superintendent met with campus and district leadership to analyze feedback and prioritize stakeholder recommendations to develop district-level recommendations.
- Recommendations for use of ESSER funds were shared with the Board at a School Board Meeting for input, suggested changes and refinement.
- Revised recommendations shared at the public hearing
- Final application prepared and submitted.

Refugio ISD, with input from staff, parents, students, and community members, has identified the following priorities for federal Elementary and Secondary School Relief Emergency Funds (ESSER) to address gaps in learning precipitated by COVID-19:

ESSER III Entitlement: **\$1,273,896**

LEARNING ACCELERATION:

- ❖ Intervention Staff
- ❖ Retention & Recruitment Stipends
- ❖ Professional Development
- ❖ Robust summer acceleration program **\$1,103,896**
- ❖ Continue to employ existing staff

HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

- ❖ Online program for academic supports **\$ 36,000**
- ❖ Upgraded dictionaries

TECHNOLOGY:

- ❖ Chromebooks
- ❖ Upgraded Calculators **\$134,000**
- ❖ Headphones with microphones for Reading Programs

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