

# Westminster Community Charter School ARPA-ESSR Funding Plan

## Introduction

The 2021-22 enacted NY State budget includes language requiring local education agencies, such as school districts, that receive funding from the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA-ESSER) to post on its website a plan by school year of how these funds will be spent.

New York has been allocated nearly \$9 billion in ARPA-ESSER funds, with a minimum of \$8.09 billion (90 percent) going to local education agencies, including public schools. Westminster Community Charter School District has been allocated \$2,125,118.

Of this total, 20% or \$425,024 of the funds are earmarked specifically for the District to address learning loss.

As per the grant, an LEA will spend the funding as follows:

(1) shall reserve not less than 20 percent of such funds to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the student subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ([20 U.S.C. 6311\(b\)\(2\)\(B\)\(xi\)](#)), students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care; and

(2) shall use the remaining funds for any of the following:

(A) Any activity authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

(B) Any activity authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

(C) Any activity authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

(D) Any activity authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

(E) Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant

agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

(F) Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.

(G) Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.

(H) Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.

(I) Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.

(J) Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students, providing technology for online learning to all students, providing guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.

(K) Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.

(L) Providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools.

(M) Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.

(N) Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including by—

(i) administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction.

(ii) implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students;

(iii) providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment; and

(iv) tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.

(O) School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.

(P) Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.

(Q) Developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.

(R) Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

The Westminster Community Charter School attests that they will adhere to the parameters set by the ARPA grant. The administrative team has had ongoing discussions on the current status and needs, assessed the pandemic's impact and sought feedback from staff and parent community to understand their needs. This is a practice school has followed since the Pandemic was declared. The school plan for utilization of the funding is as follows:

## **Program to Support Learning Loss:**

Plan Summary:

Westminster Community Charter School will utilize at least the 20% or \$425,024 of these funds to support schools extended day learning plan and Summer School offerings, these programs will help mitigate the learning loss due to Pandemic. The programs will be evidence based, designed with considerations of the entire student body. The remaining funding will be used for other allowable uses within the grant.

## **WCCS Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans:**

## **Purchasing School Technology and Instructional Support Software:**

Plan Summary:

WCCS will utilize part of the funding to update the student and staff facing technology platforms so information is readily accessible as needed, and with highest level of data security. School will also purchase Software solutions to provide for varied needs of our school community.

WCCS will utilize part of the funding towards supporting Student and Staff technology device needs and to assist with hotspot needs of the families. This takes into account the need of device replacement & replenishment plans for future years.

WCCS will utilize part of the funding to enhance communication platform with the parents, creating a greater ease of access for the parents, students and school community.

## **Staff Salaries:**

Plan Summary:

WCCS will allocate part of the funds to staff salaries to include additional positions and restoration of after-school programs, extension of services to pre-pandemic levels.

## **Supporting Staff Development:**

Plan Summary:

Westminster Community Charter School will use part of the funding to use consulting services to create professional development for teachers to ensure that curriculum addresses all student needs. This multi-year plan will build on the existing knowledge and structures within WCCS and provide support to both the building leadership and teacher teams.

## **School Air Quality Safety:**

Plan Summary:

Westminster Community Charter School will allocate ARPA funds for upgrade and replacement of school's Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) System.

## **Periodic Plan Review:**

District administrators will continue to consult and collaborate with public health experts and other area school districts to ensure the most up-to-date guidance is being considered and applied.

Additional updates to operating protocols and procedures will be made in real-time as changes in conditions and recommendations warrant.