

American Rescue Plan 2023-2024

West Ottawa Public Schools - 70070

- 1. Describe how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that align with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, ensuring safe in-person learning:**

Mitigation of COVID-19 was achieved through physical distancing facilitated by reducing class sizes, including the addition of several elementary teachers and several support staff members to assist with spacing. Health and safety routines in classrooms were updated, behavior interventions were directed, and a staff member was dedicated to contact tracing and student health. An online learning director was employed to support effective remote learning. A Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) was implemented at the elementary school to address students' academic and behavioral needs, and the MTSS system is being improved across West Ottawa Middle School.

- 2. How will the district use funds reserved under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through evidence-based interventions?**

High-quality assessments will be utilized to monitor elementary students' progress in mathematics and reading, guiding a multi-tiered approach to mastering essential content and skills. Instructional specialists will model, co-teach, reflect, and guide the MTSS with evidence-based practices in Tier I instruction, supplemented by strategies in Tier II and Tier III interventions. Newly hired faculty and paraprofessionals will be trained to provide high-quality Tier II and Tier III support using data-driven identification processes. Additional learning opportunities will include extended school days, summer school, and summer enrichment programs. Middle and high school students will also benefit from data-informed interventions, such as additional learning opportunities through extended school days, summer school, and online learning.

- 3. How will the remaining ARP ESSER funds be spent, consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act?**

Funds will support the employment of an online learning coordinator/teacher at West Ottawa Virtual Academy to facilitate remote learning and address individual learner needs, including credit recovery due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional paraprofessionals will be employed at elementary and middle schools to support physical spacing, classroom safety routines, and academic and behavioral interventions. A staff member will focus on attendance monitoring, COVID-19 contact tracing, and student health. The district will also collaborate with MCAN and MSU to employ college access advisors to assist students, particularly those from low-income families, with completing college applications, FAFSA, and engaging with higher education institutions.

4. **How will interventions address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, particularly those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic?**

Through an MTSS approach, West Ottawa Public Schools will implement and monitor a comprehensive academic and social-emotional support system. Progress monitoring and data analysis will drive this needs-based approach, ensuring responsiveness to students' diverse needs. Instructional specialists will assist teachers and interventionists in adapting their methods to address social-emotional, behavioral, and academic barriers. Evidence-based Tier I literacy and math programs will include aligned assessments, embedded interventions, and social-emotional learning features. High-quality resources will enable intentional prioritization of instructional goals to accelerate in-school learning and address gaps.