



## Patrick County Public Schools

P.O. Box 346 • 104 Rucker Street • Stuart, Virginia 24171  
Phone (276) 694-3163 • Fax (276) 694-3170

### ARP ESSER Plan

#### **Section 1: Introduction**

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. Patrick County Public Schools has been awarded **4,813,292.57** in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. **Please note that this plan is dependent upon grant approval and actual bid pricing prior to the start of any work.**

Questions about this plan should be directed to Mr. Dean Gilbert, Superintendent, Patrick County Public Schools.

To respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, Patrick County Public Schools followed CDC, VDH, and local Health Department guidance. An updated **Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services** can be found on the Patrick County Public Schools home page. The PCPS **Infectious Disease (COVID-19) Preparedness and Response Plan** is also posted on the PCPS home page. Both plans can be found at the following link.

[https://patrick.k12.va.us/families/covid\\_19](https://patrick.k12.va.us/families/covid_19)

#### **Section 2: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies**

ARP Act ESSER III funds may be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. Patrick County Public Schools will use approximately **\$2,148,292.57** of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below. Improve social distancing in our transportation department by purchasing 5 additional buses

- To improve social distancing in our transportation department, 5 additional buses will be purchased.
- Contract Deep-Cleaning Services for high contact areas such as gym bleachers, lockers, cafeteria, etc.
- Hire two Maintenance Technicians for the duration of the grant to assist the Maintenance Department with the increased amount of labor for HVAC upgrades, air quality, distribution of cleaning supplies, and other renovations funded through the ARP Grant.
- Hire one additional custodian for the duration of the grant to support the increased cleaning and disinfecting at the high school.
- Purchase additional cleaning supplies and equipment to ensure facilities are clean and disinfected.
- To improve the air quality of classrooms in the Career and Technical Building, three classroom areas within the workspace will be enclosed to allow for better ventilation and air quality.
- To improve social distancing in common areas such as the cafeteria and library, new furniture will be purchased to increase the distance between students and staff.
- To improve the ability of schools to clean and to remove harmful allergens, the carpet will be replaced or removed throughout all PCPS facilities.
- To improve social distancing and to promote outside activities, PCPS will purchase new playground equipment for each elementary school.
- To improve social distance and to promote outside activities, PCPS will create or improve existing outdoor learning spaces.
- To improve the ability of schools to clean furniture surfaces and to promote social distancing, new office/lobby furniture will be purchased at all PCPS facilities.
- To improve social distancing, furniture will be purchased in classrooms determined in need by the school administration.
- To improve the ability of schools to clean and to improve the aesthetics of our facilities, all restrooms which were not renovated in 2010, will be renovated with new tile and fixtures.
- To improve the ability of schools to clean and to improve social distancing, three schools will receive new bleachers in the gymnasium.
- To improve the ability of the high school to clean locker rooms and to promote social distancing, new lockers and a coaching office will be added to both locker rooms used for Physical Education classes.
- To provide for adequate and proper storage of cleaning supplies and equipment, PCPS will install storage buildings at all seven schools and the maintenance department.

### **Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning**

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA to use twenty percent of its formula funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (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. Patrick County Public Schools will use approximately **1,565,000.00** of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

- Hire one additional Instructional Coach for the duration of the grant to provide professional development to teachers and staff to address student unfinished learning.
- Hire two additional Instructional Assistants for the duration of the grant to focus on remediation efforts at Patrick County High School.
- Hire 6 additional Instructional Assistants for the duration of the grant to focus on remediation efforts at each elementary school.
- Increase the funds available for tutoring and remediation in each school.
- Hire four Student Success Coaches for the duration of the grant to assist schools in providing mental health support, track academics, assist in attendance, and provide Therapeutic Day Treatment services to students.
- Hire an At-Risk Interventionist at the high school to focus on the needs of students at risk of not graduating.

### **Section 4: Other Uses of Funds**

Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act permits school divisions to use the ARP Act ESSER III funding not reserved to address unfinished learning to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways. Patrick County Public Schools will use approximately **\$1,100,000** of its ARP Act ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

- Stipends for staff to participate in additional training in SEL, teaching students in poverty, and cultural teaching.
- To promote involvement in elementary music education and elementary band, instruments will be purchased for each elementary school.
- To assist our guidance departments in addressing the social and emotional needs of students, SEL curriculum will be purchased for each elementary school.
- To improve the aesthetics of our facilities, PCPS will paint areas that were not renovated in the 2010 school renovation projects.
- To improve the safety of all students, PCPS will move to digital communication radios in all buses and at all facilities.
- To improve the safety of students, PCPS will add awnings at high traffic entrances. Current awnings will be improved to allow for better weather protection.
- To improve the aesthetics of facilities, several areas will receive new ceiling tiles and grids.

- To assist in the oversight of Federal Grants and write additional grants, PCPS will hire a part-time Financial Assistant.
- To help alleviate the impact the teacher shortage is having on PCPS, Instructional Assistants can apply for financial assistance to complete their degree requirements to become certified teachers.

### **Section 5: Addressing Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs**

PCPS will use a variety of formative assessments including CIP early benchmarks, running records, Brigance, PALS, VKRP, teacher-created assessments, etc. to measure learning gaps and needs. Professional development will be provided to address instructional needs. Remediation will be provided using small group instruction, one-on-one instruction, and online interventions.

Social-emotional learning is critical to re-engage students, rebuild relationships and school communities and create equitable learning environments for all students. Training will be provided for all instructional staff in the area of mental health and well-being. School counselors will have dedicated time to provide social-emotional learning support. Patrick County Public Schools will utilize existing PBIS strategies to support social-emotional learning and foster student confidence and competence. Formal and informal strategies may include morning meetings, advisory periods, PBIS strategies, counseling sessions, etc. Using data from both formative assessments and social-emotional assessments, teachers will revise curricula/pacing to address missing content as a result of extended school closures.

Special consideration will be given to missing content from the previous year, identification of content connections between grade levels, and student progression toward learning goals. Vertical planning within schools will allow teams to identify and ensure missing content is presented to students in a variety of formats.

### **Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment**

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, Patrick County Public Schools conducted consultation in the following ways:

- With stakeholders, including: students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, and school staff - In May 2021, PCPS sought input from all staff through the use of a survey that asked specific questions regarding federal funds. ;
- With Tribes (if applicable); civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students - On May 21,

2021, PCPS conducted a parent involvement meeting to discuss the ARP ESSER Plan.;  
and

- Patrick County Public Schools sought public input and took such input into account by providing the public the opportunity to provide input - On June 3, 2021, PCPS sought additional input from the community by providing a public comment opportunity specifically for the ARP ESSER Plan

### **Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public**

Patrick County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at <https://patrick.k12.va.us>
- The plan is available in English and Spanish languages
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Andrea Cassell, Assistant Superintendent (276-694-3163) to request translation; and
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting Ann Fulcher, Director of Special Education at (276) 694-3163.