



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
**Department of Finance  
and Administration**

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October 4, 2022

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair  
Representative Michelle Gray, Co-Chair  
Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee  
Arkansas Legislative Council  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: FY 23 American Rescue Plan Act Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Section 37 (01) of Act 199 of 2022, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

- Department of Education – Division of Elementary and Secondary Education  
– Help mitigate spread of COVID-19 at schools and continue district services  
and operations \$18,800,283

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Larry W. Walther'.  
Larry W. Walther  
Cabinet Secretary

LWW  
Attachment(s)

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION  
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST  
SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022**

Agency: ADE - DESE Business Area Code: 0500  
 Program Title: American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ARP - ESSER)  
 Granting Organization: USDE CFDA #: 84.425U  
 Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 7/1/2022 Ending: 6/30/2023

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):  
 Funds are provided to State educational agencies and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Nation's students.

**American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding**

Func. Area: EDUC Fund Code: FRP5000 Direct Funding: x  
 Funds Center: E65 Internal Order/WBS Element: \_\_\_\_\_ Steering Comm. Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Continuation: \_\_\_\_\_

	Program Funding Amount
Regular Salaries	
Extra Help	
Personal Services Matching	
Operating Expenses	
Conference & Travel Expenses	
Professional Fees	
Capital Outlay	
Data Processing	
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)	
Other: ARP Grant	18,800,283
Other: ARP Grant	
Total	\$ 18,800,283

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 9/30/23

**DFA IGS State Technology Planning** Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DFA IGS State Technology Planning.  
 \* unclassified positions only

**Positions to be established: (list each position separately)**

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Comnt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.

Approved by: [Signature] 9/24/2022 [Signature] 10-4-22  
 Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date Office of Budget Date Office of Personnel Mgmt Date  
CH 10/4/22

LEA	District	Superintendent	Remaining ARP ESSER allocation as of July 9, 2022	The district's current ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan meets the recommendations of ALC.	If yes, please provide the URL to the ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan posted on the district website.	The district revised the ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan to meet the recommendations of ALC. The revised ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan is posted on the district website and the URL is provided below.	The district ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan does not meet the recommendations of ALC and (1) a justification is provided below and the (2) URL to the ARP ESSER Use of Funds Plan is provided.
3301000	Calico Rock	Jerry Skidmore	\$590,629.23	No		we are currently revising our plan to accommodate these recommendations. <a href="https://pirates.k12.ar.us/esser-funding-https://pirates.k12.ar.us/plugins/show_image.php?it=4071">https://pirates.k12.ar.us/esser-funding-https://pirates.k12.ar.us/plugins/show_image.php?it=4071</a>	
3810000	Lawrence County School District	Terry Belcher	\$1,392,496.55	Yes	<a href="https://www.bobcats.k12.ar.us/covid-19">https://www.bobcats.k12.ar.us/covid-19</a>	<a href="https://www.bobcats.k12.ar.us/images/state_required_information/2021_2022/0402_001.pdf">https://www.bobcats.k12.ar.us/images/state_required_information/2021_2022/0402_001.pdf</a>	NA
503000	Harrison School District	Dr. Stewart Pratt	\$3,670,260.15	No		Does not meet the recommendation	Justification: The Harrison School District submitted a plan for the use of ESSER III / ARP funds to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. The district only has \$900,000 non obligated funds remaining in ESSER III / ARP. The District plans to provide each employee \$2,500 at a total cost to the District of \$1,260,000.00. A School Board approved resolution will be submitted to the ALC-PEER Committee as requested.  URL to the revised ARP ESSER Use of Funds Plan: The district will post the revised plan as indicated above at <a href="https://harrisongoblins.org/320435_2https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ya4DTzCpPDJpYWl67j8B0cVqOu0D0HkJ/view?usp=sharing">https://harrisongoblins.org/320435_2https://drive.google.com/file/d/18ya4DTzCpPDJpYWl67j8B0cVqOu0D0HkJ/view?usp=sharing</a>
3809000	Hillcrest	Mickel Smith	\$1,428,944.47	Yes	<a href="http://hillcrest.k12.ar.us">hillcrest.k12.ar.us</a>	<a href="https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1645/HSD/2472886/ARP_9_26_23.pdf">https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1645/HSD/2472886/ARP_9_26_23.pdf</a>  <a href="#">Will meet recommendations.</a>	
2606000	Lakeside School District (Garland County)	Shawn Cook	\$2,707,991.42	No	na	No, we did not revise the plan to meet that allotment in this one year but we have given all our employees the potential to make up to an extra \$8,010 over the past three years out of ESSER and ARP funds.	We have not meet the recommendation to give all certified \$5,000, and classified \$2500 in this contract year alone however we have already given all certified and classified employees extra compensation of \$15 per day for every day of the 178 student interaction days that they have been here for the past two years which equals \$2,670 per year or up to \$5,340. We believe strongly that classified and certified employees should get the same bonus. Our school board voted to give up to \$2,670 again this year. If an employee has worked every day ( of the 178 student interaction days) for the past three years they will have received \$8,010 in additional compensation bonus money out of our ESSER and ARP funds. If we gave the amount recommended this year in addition to what we have already given we would have to cut our free after school program. We are using the funds for learning loss for kids and believe we should stay the course. We strongly believe that employees should be competitively compensated. Example: Our first year teachers start at \$45,968 if they have a BSE and \$50,091 if they have a MSE. As you can tell we believe competitive pay is important. I believe we are in the top 5 in the state concerning starting pay for teachers. <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1s1NFaEQ_r2Wr_YCSTaqJ4eiVTPzOCROF">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1s1NFaEQ_r2Wr_YCSTaqJ4eiVTPzOCROF</a> <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hgGXn9c4uYtFHVmy60M8Fn5_vsSnfyPS/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hgGXn9c4uYtFHVmy60M8Fn5_vsSnfyPS/view?usp=sharing</a>
7403000	McCrary School District	Scott Waymire	\$896,889.61	No			The current plan does not meet the recommendation of the ALC due to previous commitments of allocations in previous years. There were revisions made to the plan to support certified and classified employees to receive retention bonuses. The original plan gave certified and classified employees a \$1,000 raise in November 2021 if they were employed in 2020-2021 school year and \$1,000 raise in November 2022 if they were employed in 2021-2022. The District revised the plan to include \$1000 bonuses for Spring 2023 and Fall of 2024. <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mQ0CzdfTqXVJ2BFD8uYMXb0VpK-3zAt3">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mQ0CzdfTqXVJ2BFD8uYMXb0VpK-3zAt3</a>  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mKniiGihThEZ6x38Tsq6Vtd6qV62GUhc/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mKniiGihThEZ6x38Tsq6Vtd6qV62GUhc/view?usp=sharing</a>

LEA	District	Superintendent	Remaining ARP ESSER allocation as of July 9, 2022	The district's current ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan meets the recommendations of ALC.	If yes, please provide the URL to the ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan posted on the district website.	The district revised the ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan to meet the recommendations of ALC. The revised ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan is posted on the district website and the URL is provided below.	The district ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan does not meet the recommendations of ALC and (1) a justification is provided below and the (2) URL to the ARP ESSER Use of Funds Plan is provided.
4602000	Genoa Central	Debbie Huff	\$2,032,401.70	No		<a href="https://dragons1.k12.ar.us/">https://dragons1.k12.ar.us/</a> <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i5h4jtQyul1k1kmekDLKxgQ4McxCliQM/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i5h4jtQyul1k1kmekDLKxgQ4McxCliQM/view?usp=sharing</a>	
7303000	Bradford School District	Patti Stevens	\$787,160.62	No			<p><a href="#">(1) Bradford School District provided additional pay using ESSER funds during the past two school years and is currently planning to give a recruitment and retention bonus this school year using ARP ESSER funds; however, the bonus does not fully meet the recommendations of the ALC Peer Committee because other needs in the District are being met. The plan will continue to be reviewed as projects are completed.</a></p> <p><a href="#">(2) https://drive.google.com/file/d/16Wj10rmZGnUzcckc0rkXG_l2M-hi8qY/view?usp=sharing</a></p>
302000	Cotter School District	James H. Jones	\$1,364,537.62	Yes	<a href="https://static.visionamp.co/rubix/20220928/-revised-arp-esser-20222023-15881.pdf">https://static.visionamp.co/rubix/20220928/-revised-arp-esser-20222023-15881.pdf</a>	<a href="https://static.visionamp.co/rubix/20220928/-revised-arp-esser-20222023-15881.pdf">https://static.visionamp.co/rubix/20220928/-revised-arp-esser-20222023-15881.pdf</a>	
3806000	Sloan-Hendrix	Clifford Rorex	\$1,573,098.33	No		<p>Yes the revised ARP Use of Funds is posted on the district website. <a href="https://www.sloan-hendrix.com/page/covid-19">https://www.sloan-hendrix.com/page/covid-19</a></p> <p><a href="https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/2385/shsd/2476306/ARP_Use_of_Funds_Revised_9-26-22.pdf">https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/2385/shsd/2476306/ARP_Use_of_Funds_Revised_9-26-22.pdf</a></p>	
2901000	Blevins School District	Stephanie Dixon	\$1,621,494.76	No		No	<p><a href="#">Our teacher retention and recruitment plan provides all staff members with the opportunity to receive \$3,000 annually for the next three years. https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1753/Blevins_School_District/2288280/REVISED_22-23_ARP_Plan.pdf</a></p>
3405000	Jackson County School District	Chester Shannon	\$734,377.71	No			<p><a href="#">The district will give a bonus, but it will not meet the recommendation.</a></p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YuaApT-f5uZazhX8LDQEuHUjmxivf4Dz/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YuaApT-f5uZazhX8LDQEuHUjmxivf4Dz/view</a></p>
			\$18,800,282.17				