



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

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September 26, 2022

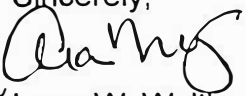
Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair
Representative Michelle Gray, Co-Chair
Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

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 \$64,411,381

Sincerely,

for 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	64,411,381
Other: ARP Grant	
Total	\$ 64,411,381

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.

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:  Date _____
 Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director

 9-26-22
 Office of Budget Date
 CH 9-26-22

Office of Personnel Mgmt Date

Timestamp	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.
9/15/2022 14:01	6301000	Bauxite Schools	Matt Donaghy	\$420,223.39	No			<p>1) The Bauxite School District has worked diligently with stakeholders to ensure that we have been good stewards of the ESSER and ARP Funds that we have been allocated while following the guidelines we were given. With ARP ESSER funds, we added teaching staff and interventionists. The district also purchased security cameras, buses, and cleaning supplies. We heavily invested in curriculum to offset learning loss. We purchased CKLA literacy curriculum for grades K-6, as well as programs to allow for virtual learning at all grade levels. We have also invested in intervention and after school tutoring. In addition, we have provided our entire staff with hazard bonuses, recruitment and retention bonuses, as well as COVID leave, and we have allocated funds to provide all staff members with bonuses this year as well. It is important to note, the district's total ARP ESSER allocation, minus the twenty percent required for learning loss, would not have been enough to cover the peer committee's recommendation for bonuses.</p> <p>2) https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QFSAmFShAaV2z5_ccjHTjScL3PJC1vBf/view?usp=sharing</p>
9/15/2022 17:52	440000	Arkansas Arts Academy	Dr. Allison Roberts	\$505,457.96	No	https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded file/525/District/1470777/doc06710720220614142507.pdf	https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded file/525/District/1470777/doc06710720220614142507.pdf	<p>AAA is unable to meet the recommendations of ALC because our funds were already allocated and needed for the following:</p> <p>Learning Loss 37.89%</p> <p>Mental Health 1.13%</p> <p>Educational Technology 24.49%</p> <p>Continuity of Operation 5.48%</p> <p>Air Quality/HVAC 30.90%</p> <p>We did not have the funds to provide our staff with the recommended raise. AAA has had significant needs for Technology, Curriculum, Instructional aides, Instructional Material, Professional Development (PLC, 95% Group)</p>

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9/16/2022 10:33	3840000	Imboden Area Charter	Matthew Wells	\$186,397.24	No		https://www.imbodencharter.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ESSER-Plan-September-Revision.docx https://www.imbodencharter.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ARP_ESSER_App-September-2022-Revision.docx	
9/16/2022 12:05	7309000	Pangburn	David Rolland	\$410,553.96	No			<p><u>The Pangburn School District will not be meeting the ALC recommendations for a retention/recruitment bonus with the ARP Funds. The Pangburn School District was one of 38 schools which were identified by the state as a low funded Title One School. The Pangburn School District received a total of \$855,463.41. The ALC recommendation would cost a total of \$625,000 for the district. After several meetings with stakeholders, ARP funds were used to combat learning loss, maintain continuity of operations after a 51 student decline in enrollment due to the COVID pandemic and technology needs of the district. The Pangburn School District is fully staffed with both certified and classified positions at this time. The Pangburn School District will continue to work with stakeholders, review enrollment data, and free and reduced lunch percentages to find ways to offer our staff competitive salaries going forward.</u></p> <p>https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1922/PSD/2448184/sharpmfp_pangburnschools.org_20220916_100237.pdf</p>

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9/16/2022 14:17	6303000	Bryant Public Schools	Karen Walters	\$4,989,773.31	No			<p>The ARP ESSER plan does not meet the recommendation of the ALC for several reasons: 1)The district was the 14th lowest in the state on the per pupil amount received (See attached document). 2) If the Committee would have made the recommendation when allocations were first received in April of 2021, rather than July of 2022, the district would barely have the funds to meet the recommendation after the 20% learning loss. 3) The recommendation did not come out in April 2021, but rather July of 2022. The district had already spent and/or obligated almost 70% of its funds at the time of the recommendation.</p> <p>While the district would love to provide staff with the bonus as recommended by the ALC, it is not equitable nor reasonable to expect the recommendation can be met, given the low amount per pupil the district received from the allocation and the timing of the recommendation, i.e., after a full year of expenditures.</p> <p>Bryant Public Schools gave substantial salary increases to classified staff for the 22-23 school year. Most departments received at least a 20% increase. A \$1,420 salary increase was also added to the base of the certified salary schedule for the 22-23 school year. The current beginning salary is \$42,500.</p> <p>For the 21-22 school year, the district used approximately \$435,000 in ARP funds for COVID leave for employees. The district also gave a \$1,000 non-recurring salary payment to all staff members.</p> <p>The district has also budgeted for a \$1,000 non-recurring salary payment, from operating funds, to be given in December, for the 22-23 school year. The district is hopeful that it will be able to give an additional bonus for the second semester.</p> <p>Administration met with both the classified and certified PPC committees on Tuesday, September 6, to discuss the ARP plan. During a board work session on Tuesday, September 6, the revised plan was discussed. The plan received final approval from the board on September 15, 2022.</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1W9NUXIVXKq43-iIF30bCwK1JDi9xd81GdeGi8XuWh8/edit?usp=sharing</p> <p>https://5il.co/1i1zp</p>

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9/16/2022 14:53	6302000	Benton School District	Dr. Kim Anderson	\$4,017,500.84	No		n/a	<p>We do not have enough money in ARP ESSER to meet the recommendations. EFinance is showing we have \$4.2 million dollars when in essence we have \$1.62 million. We are in the process of replacing our boiler/chiller at the high school with split units. This approved project will cost \$2 million. Because it is a project that is in progress, EFinance will not show an encumbrance or expenditure until the project is complete. In addition, we still have over \$600,000 left in learning loss to be spent. We have given 3 raises and a bonus of \$1500 for extra duties during Covid out of Operating funds instead of ESSER Funds. If the school board approves, we plan to give a \$2,000 bonus separated into two checks out of operating funds. (\$1,000 each time)</p> <p>https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1357/BSD/2153609/ARP_ESSER.pdf</p>
9/16/2022 16:52	2307000	Vilonia	Dr. Douglas Adams	\$2,352,592.37	Yes	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xFQK-LDzPSja5kUdCu9fVMoZeTHm2yn/view	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xFQK-LDzPSja5kUdCu9fVMoZeTHm2yn/view	

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9/19/2022 8:20	5604000	Marked Tree	Matt Wright	\$2,996,777.82	Yes	https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded file/2162/markedtreesd/2449073/9722REVISED Attachment 3 LEA Plan for Use of ARP ESSER Funds rv DOCX 20210525164936.pdf	https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded file/2162/markedtreesd/2449073/9722REVISED Attachment 3 LEA Plan for Use of ARP ESSER Funds rv DOCX 20210525164936.pdf	

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								<p>The district revised the ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan to meet a portion of the recommendations by ALC. The revised ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan is posted on the district website and the URL is provided below. While our District's previous plan for use of ARP ESSER funds was approved in May of 2022 with the complete breakdown of where and how funds would be used by our district for our students and patron's - we have made some revisions to help give a portion of the proposed ALC bonus that is outlined below.</p> <p>The Roger's School District has given out bonuses to our staff since the beginning of COVID as follows:</p> <p>2019-2020 Bonus pay date: 11/20/19 1000.00 certified Classified 2.1858% not to exceed 1000.00</p> <p>2020-2021 Bonus pay date: 12/18/20 & 5/20/21 750.00 Certified x 2 1.5873% for Classified capped at 750.00 x 2</p> <p>2021-2022 Bonus pay date: 1/20/22 & 5/20/22 750.00 Certified x 2 1.5873% for Classified capped at 750.00 x 2</p> <p>Our District was in part able to payout these bonuses due to ESSER funds being utilized for continuing school operations, supporting families and student learning by hiring additional staff and ramping up our virtual offerings during the pandemic, purchasing software and devices, etc. The cost savings of using ESSER funds for the expenses listed allowed us the opportunity to use operating funds to pay out \$4,000 to certified and over \$2,000 for classified staff during this pandemic which began in school year 2019-2020.</p>

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9/19/2022 8:39	405000	Rogers Public Schools	Dr. Jeff Perry	\$14,335,811.08	No		https://www.rogersschools.net/Page/871 https://www.rogersschools.net/cms/lib/AR50000623/Centricity/Domain/297/APR%20ESSER%2009162022.pdf	<p>The attached revised plan shows utilization of approximately \$1.9 million of the ARP ESSER Funds to help pay out an additional bonus in November of 2022. The amount of that bonus will be \$2,000 for all certified staff and \$1,000 for all classified staff. The approximate cost of the total bonus payout will be \$4.0 million, with \$2.1 million being paid from our operating fund and \$1.9 million being paid from ARP ESSER funds as seen in the application.</p> <p>By revising our plan and reviewing the ALC's recommendation - our district will have paid bonuses in the amount of \$6,000 to our Certified staff and over \$3,000 to our Classified staff since the onset of the pandemic. All remaining ARP ESSER funds are committed and encumbered as outlined in the new plan, mirroring closely what was already approved in May of 2022.</p> <p>URL for new plan - https://www.rogersschools.net/Page/871 Plan information can be found by scrolling to the bottom of the page and looking under - other required information.</p>
9/19/2022 10:44	1703000	Mountainburg Public Schools	Dr. Debbie Atwell	\$1,423,830.48	No			<p><u>The District does not plan to meet the recommendations of the ALC. (1) While we would like to be able to provide bonuses to all and recognize the need to address gaps in educator pay, we are committed to our plans to utilize the funds to address areas of need and to improve student learning. The balances of the funds are obligated for needed loss of learning, transportation and facilities projects to provide additional space and increase air quality. We have utilized funds for teacher incentive and recruitment by paying Visa fees for foreign national teachers exchange program, and by paying teachers additional pay for training for use of high quality instructional materials.</u></p> <p><u>(2) https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1695894/Attachment_2_LEA_Plan_for_Use_of_ARP_ESSER_Funds_09172021.docx.pdf</u></p>

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9/19/2022 11:09	6502000	Searcy County School District	Valorie McCleary	\$2,791,452.49	Yes		https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Dfd4vJvftn79Z_I0DVtano5etfxzu5YI https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zb-KkRs_SGwS3OsyTCxbRxPFOU_uESV-/view?usp=sharing	
9/19/2022 13:13	7001000	El Dorado	Jim Tucker	\$5,959,491.26	Yes	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zTOIfRWCsDDTSIBgKJMuSd1Y9RUbVcH/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113485606821061921861&rtpof=true&sd=true	No	

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9/19/2022 15:00	7003000	Junction City	Joy Mason	\$306,602.39	No			The Junction City School District has revised the plan and is able to give bonuses, however, not at the recommended rate. JCSD used ESSER funds to give extra duty pay in the summer of 2021 along with vaccination incentives in the fall of 2021. https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/389/JCSD/1467301/Revised_ARP_Esser_LEA_Plan_September_19_2022.pdf
9/20/2022 8:05	1204000	Westside Consolidated Schools	Scott Gauntt	\$1,278,668.22	Yes	westsideschools.org	https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1683/WCSD/2318125/21-22_ARP_ESSER_III_Plan_Revised_8.2.22_Website.pdf	
9/20/2022 13:08	7105000	South Side Bee Branch	Greg Bradford	\$458,224.41	No			We have allocated the funds to prior learning lose positions and projects to slow the spread of COVID. We are allocating the remainder of ARP ESSER funds to retention/recruitment pay. We are not able to meet the recommendation.
9/20/2022 15:08	2104000	Dumas	Dr. Camille Sterrett	\$3,493,879.57	No			We would like to provide a bonus of \$4000 to certified and classified staff as well as \$2000 to part time staff. Due to the amount of funds needed, the district will expend additional funds needed from a trust that was provided to the district from a deceased Dumas resident.

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9/21/2022 0:30	7509000	Western Yell County Schools	Dr. Lisa Kissire	\$791,932.51	Yes	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JddGQcJ4vHqsm5itF1GGH-lduMoa0BG/edit	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JddGQcJ4vHqsm5itF1GGH-lduMoa0BG/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=116844972829560558112&rtpof=true&sd=true	N/A
9/21/2022 9:27	4304000	Cabot School District	Tony Thurman	\$7,777,708.50	No		No	<p>Our ARP allocation was \$9,874,525. Our initial expenditure plan was approved in August 2021and revised in March 2022. We obligated to \$3.5 million to facility upgrades. This included HVAC units and HVAC central control systems. \$1.9 million to transportation for 11 buses with Wi-Fi and HVAC systems. \$60,000 to custodial and nursing, \$3.5 million to learning loss. This amount includes \$1.2 million for two years for additional secondary interventionist. \$900,000 to technology for continued support for digital learning. One hundred percent of the funds have been obligated.</p> <p>Our district increased classified salaries for the current year by \$1.1million and will provide a mid-year bonus of \$550. Certified staff will receive a mid-year salary increase totaling \$1.7 million. The districts total increase for certified and classified including step increases will be \$4,094,439.</p> <p>https://www.cabotschools.org/storage/files/shares/Departments/Federal_Programs/ARP%20ESSER%20Fund%20Plan%20Revised%20May%2027%202022.pdf</p>

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9/21/2022 11:06	1505000	Wonderview School District	Jamie Stacks, PhD	\$759,679.98	No			WSD has provided additional compensation for all staff using ARP ESSER funds and will provide additional compensation this year, but not the recommended amount. WSD has committed funds for other projects according to the allowable expenses and meeting Learning Loss Requirements. The full updated ARP ESSER Use of Funds can be found at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yiMfun6C5hGxQ3ER4cc9zXtGjRB-sL5uG87VQXC6FYI/edit
9/21/2022 11:12	7009000	Strong - Huttig	Kimberly Thomas	\$758,533.23	Yes		https://www.strong.k12.ar.us/355383_2	
9/21/2022 11:25	5102000	Jasper	Candra Brasel	\$2,781,325.20	Yes	https://www.jasper.k12.ar.us/page/american-rescue-plan-act-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund	https://www.jasper.k12.ar.us/page/american-rescue-plan-act-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund	

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9/21/2022 11:29	5106000	Deer/Mt. Judea	Brenda Napier	\$600,828.53	No		https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/660/Deer Mt Judea School District/2458732/ARP ESSER updated September 2022.pdf	
9/22/2022 10:51	5205000	Harmony Grove School District	Albert Snow	\$2,888,292.50	Yes	https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfles/371/lea plan for use of arp esser funds - update sept 22 2022.pdf	Yes	It does meet the recommendations

Timestamp	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.
9/22/2022 12:15	2305000	Mayflower School District	Andy Chisum	\$651,918.34	No	n/a	n/a	<p><u>Update ARP ESSER plan URL: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Y9U3Q-z4aHUQZquLRqXbivbBZzhUnKdW/view?usp=sharing</u></p> <p><u>The district does not have enough ESSER funds remaining to meet the recommendations of ALC. It would take approximately \$690,000 to meet the ALC recommendation. We have roughly \$443,000 remaining ESSER funds.</u></p> <p><u>Of the remaining funds, about \$100,000 is required to go toward Learning Loss to meet the 20% requirement set forth by the federal government, which leaves about \$343,000 in discretionary ESSER funds.</u></p> <p><u>The remaining \$343,000 will not be used as a "bonus" as recommended because federal guidance does not allow for that, and we are not financially able to pay back the misspent federal money.</u></p> <p><u>However, we will develop a plan to distribute the remaining ESSER funds as a recruitment and retention "incentive," with specific qualifying criteria embedded, just like the recruitment and retention incentive that was disbursed in 2021. We plan to distribute the funds in two installments, one in the fall of 2022 and the other in the fall of 2023. Funds will be distributed equally to all employees (licensed and classified) if they meet all qualifying criteria.</u></p>

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9/22/2022 12:18	6102000	Maynard	Patricia Rawlings	\$1,473,925.45	No		https://www.maynard.nesc.k12.ar.us/page/district-plans https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3056/MSD/202254/ARP_Esser_Plan_revised_September_2022.pdf	
				\$64,411,381.03				