



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

**OFFICE OF BUDGET**  
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August 15, 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 \$123,534,314

Sincerely,

  
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	123,534,314
Other: ARP Grant	
Total	S 123,534,314

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 9/30/23

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**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	Cmnt 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] 8/12/2022 Date  
 Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director  
[Signature] 8-15-22 Date  
 Office of Budget  
CH 8-15-22  
 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.
8/8/2022 9:47	6003000	Pulaski County Special School District	Charles McNulty	12,138,084.50	No			PCSSD has already committed a stipend of \$8,694,562 to support professionals through the pandemic by using ESSER funds. PCSSD has developed an American Recovery Plan to support learning loss, cover the extensive additional costs due to the pandemic and rising costs, and support facility infrastructure to be more responsive to COVID 19 or any new virus to ensure our schools are kept open.  As part of the four decade old desegregation case in which PCSSD is still a defendant, on May 6, 2021, the federal court ordered PCSSD to develop a proposal for facilities work to be done at Mills University Studies High School to "comply ... and square up" the inequity between Mills University Studies High School and Robinson Middle School. LRSD v. PCSSD, Case No. 4:82-cv-866-DPM (E.D. Ark.) (Doc. 5730, p. 30). On July 30, 2021, PCSSD proposed to the federal court its plan to make strategic expansions to Mills University Studies High School in light of pandemic needs and in light of the demands of the ongoing desegregation case. In this proposal, PCSSD explained how instructional practices have adapted, new pedagogical models have developed, and needs have shifted. PCSSD also explained to the federal court that there is pandemic learning loss to be confronted. On the topic of technology, change is of course omnipresent. Additionally, true to its namesake, Mills is a University Studies school that strives to be a beacon for the community and prepare its students for higher education. Part of PCSSD's July 30, 2021 proposal to the federal court included using \$4 million of ARP funds to expand Mills University Studies High School to meet the orders of the federal court while building facilities that are specifically designed in part to mitigate COVID learning loss. On January 26, 2022, the federal court approved PCSSD's plan. PCSSD has moved forward and begun complying with the federal court orders to move this project along to the next step using ARP funds as proposed. PCSSD has represented to the federal court that it will use ARP funds in this manner, and PCSSD has made plans accordingly. If the state were to remove PCSSD's ability to rely on this \$4 million, this would frustrate, and potentially jeopardize, PCSSD's ability to follow through on its desegregation obligations.  <a href="https://www.pcssd.org/page/american-rescue-plan">https://www.pcssd.org/page/american-rescue-plan</a>
8/8/2022 11:19	6802000	Cave City School District	Steven Green	3,424,352.88	Yes		<a href="https://sil.co/1focf">https://sil.co/1focf</a>	
8/8/2022 12:24	7205000	Lincoln	Dr. Mary Ann Spears	2,025,797.22	No			1) Our ARP Esser Use of Funds plan addresses loss of learning. We have 5 salaried positions to support loss of learning that will be paid out of ARP ESSER funds. We do plan to do an extra duty pay due to COVID again this fall. \$2,000 per employee We have done 2 Extra Duty payouts over the past 2 years. \$3,000 per employee (based on days worked) 2) <a href="https://sites.google.com/lincoln.k12.ar.us/rfl/csd-arp-esser?authuser=0">https://sites.google.com/lincoln.k12.ar.us/rfl/csd-arp-esser?authuser=0</a>
8/8/2022 12:24	3804000	Hoxie School District	Kelly Gillham	1,063,287.18	Yes	<a href="https://sil.co/1bc1q">https://sil.co/1bc1q</a>		
8/8/2022 14:35	5303000	Perryville School District	Walt Davis	1,330,462.90	Yes		<a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschooifiles/1394/arp_esser_funds_8-8-2022.pdf">https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschooifiles/1394/arp_esser_funds_8-8-2022.pdf</a>	
8/8/2022 14:46	4303000	Carlisle	William Rountree	216,409.10	No		Carlisle School District is unable to revise the ARP plan to meet the recommendations of the ALC.	<a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschooifiles/1394/arp_esser_funds_8-8-2022.pdf">Carlisle School District received a total of \$711,184.64 in ARP funds. To date Carlisle has spent a total of \$496,962.99 of these funds. The remaining 214,221.65 has been budgeted and approved to pay a retention incentive of \$800.00 for the 2022/2023 school year. The incentive and benefits will total \$103,026.00. We have also hired a para pro and a dyslexia interventionist for the 2022/2023 school year. That leaves the district a balance of \$59,976.48. There is no way our district can pay the type of bonus that is being suggested from our ARP funds. <a href="https://carlisle.k12.ar.us/325648_2">https://carlisle.k12.ar.us/325648_2</a></a>
8/8/2022 15:07	4701000	Armored	Tiffany Morgan	57,593.73	No			The Armored School District was awarded a combined total of \$379,127.54 from ARP ESSER. The district, in following the original guideline, and evaluating the most pressing needs, resolved to purchase HVAC units. This was in to improve air quality for our students and staff. The district plan was created, submitted, and approved early to spend almost all ARP ESSER funds (except for the required learning loss funding) on an HVAC upgrade. DESE released ESSER funds and reimbursed the district \$301,599.63 for the HVAC project on September 17, 2021. If the district were to have used ARP ESSER funds to give the recommended bonuses, the total given to the staff would have been \$282,500. The required amount set aside for learning loss totaled \$75,825.51. Therefore, if we had spend our ARP ESSER funds on only bonuses and learning loss this total would have been \$358,325.51, leaving \$20,802.03 for any other needs. Although there would have been enough to have given bonuses from ARP ESSER, the guidance stated that these funds "generally will not be used for bonuses, merit pay, or similar expenditures, unless related to disruptions or closures resulting from CVID-19." In accordance with the guidance, the Armored School District did not feel, if audited, we could defend providing bonuses with ARP ESSER funding. That said, the district did, from general operating, provide a \$1,500 bonus to each staff member in both 2021 and 2022. Also in the 2021-2022 school year, again using general operating funds, gave each staff member an additional eight (8) COVID related absences/days. In the event these addition days were not used by the staff, the district paid the staff for each unused day (at sub rate of pay).  <a href="https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/567/ArmoredPublicSchools/2326368/REVISED_ARP_ESSER_Plan108.pdf">https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/567/ArmoredPublicSchools/2326368/REVISED_ARP_ESSER_Plan108.pdf</a>
8/8/2022 15:53	3030000	Mountain Home Public Schools	Dr. Jacob Long	4,272,434.20	Yes	<a href="https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/2418/mhsd/2094626/MHPS_Revised_ARP_ESSER_May_2022.pdf">https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/2418/mhsd/2094626/MHPS_Revised_ARP_ESSER_May_2022.pdf</a>		
8/8/2022 15:54	3001000	Bismarck	Susan Kissire	1,038,479.49	Yes	<a href="https://www.bismarckclions.net/311174_2">https://www.bismarckclions.net/311174_2</a>		Bismarck SD paid \$1200 to teachers with ESSER II funds, although we were highly advised not to do so. We also paid \$5,000 to certified staff and \$3500 to classified staff during the 2021/2022 school year for recruitment and retention although, once again, DESE advised to not pay "bonuses" with ARP ESSER funds. This, with benefits, cost the district approx. \$840k. We have applied ALL Stabilization Funds provided to districts as well, which we were told were a requirement to add to the salary schedule initially. We have taken every opportunity to reward our staff for their hard work and dedication. Due to the obligation of ARP ESSER funds/existing contracts and the required 20% for learning loss, we can not afford to pay an additional bonus in the recommended amount for this school year on top of what we just paid out. But I would be happy to disperse to my staff any new funds that are allocated to my district. Thank you

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8/9/2022 9:24	7307000	Riverview	Stan Stratton	3,229,068.54	No			<p>Riverview School District ARP ESSR fund plan can be found on the district website. This plan has been updated continuously and posted on our website at least every six months as required.</p> <p>Our plan included an HVAC project to replace most of the HVAC at Riverview High School and Junior High School, some HVAC units at Judsonia Elementary and Kensett Elementary School campuses. The Riverview School District signed a contract with Nabholz Construction on February 2, 2022. Bids for the project came in at \$3.6 million. \$3,244,797.49 of ARP ESSR funds for Riverview School District was budgeted to go towards this project. The work on this project was originally planned to be complete by August 2022; it is now expected to be December 2022 due to supply chain issues. Riverview School District was well into this project when the ALC PEER committee's recommendation was made.</p> <p>Riverview School District's ARP Plan has \$989,730.97 budgeted to address learning loss. \$421,494.17 of this was spent during the 21-22 school year on salaries for 4 interventionists (1 literacy &amp; 3 math) and curriculum materials. The remaining \$568,235.90 is budgeted for summer school for summer of 2022 and 2023, salaries for 3 math interventionists for 22-23 school year and 2 math interventionists for 23-24 school year. Our district had 45% of our students scoring in need of support for Reading and 44% of our students scoring in need of support for Math on the 2021 Act Aspire assessment. Riverview School District was placed in Coordinated Support due to this during the 2021-2022 school year. We had 44% of our students scoring in need of support for reading and 40% of our students scoring in need of support for Math on the 2022 Act Aspire assessment. As a district in coordinated support, we must address the learning loss we are experiencing in our students. We have done so by using these funds for these salaries and purchasing high quality instructional materials (HQIM).</p> <p>Riverview School District used almost \$700,000 of ESSR II funds to provide covid pay for all employees in the district at a rate of \$20/day they were in attendance for the 2020-2021 school year. This covid pay had a maximum amount of \$3560 an employee could have earned for working 178 days with students present. Riverview School District is budgeting other district funds to provide for a bonus in a range from \$1000-\$1500 based on what the budget allows for the 2022-2023 school year for all employees.</p> <p><a href="https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1999399/RSD_ARP_ESSR_Plan_revised_4-11-22.pdf">https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1999399/RSD_ARP_ESSR_Plan_revised_4-11-22.pdf</a></p>
8/9/2022 9:27	7208000	West Fork School District	John Karnes	659,273.52	No			<p><u><a href="#">August 8, 2022</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">ALC-Peer Committee:</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Unfortunately, the West Fork School District will not be able to provide the bonuses using ARP funding that was recommended by the ALC, because all the funds allocated for the district to help safely reopen and sustain the same operation of our school and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our students is already encumbered to pay the salaries of six interventionists through the 2023-24 school year. The district currently has five interventionists hired with ARP funding for the upcoming school year and has been advertising for the sixth and final interventionist. Our plan and budget shows every dollar of ARP ESSER III funding allocated to our district is to be used to address learning loss by hiring a math and reading interventionist for each of our three schools. Over the past two and one-half years since the onset of COVID-19, our data shows us that in all three of our schools, we have students demonstrating significant learning losses in math and reading. In fact, our district spent last year on Level 3 Coordinated Support in Reading, because over 40% of our students were labeled "in need of support." With the gains we've made this past year due in part to a new RTI program that included our three reading interventionists hired with ARP funds, we hope to get off this level of support in October when DESE releases this information.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Additional reasons for our inability to provide bonuses using ARP funds include the following.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">For 12 out of the past 16 school years, our district has experienced declining enrollment. During this span of time, our total average ADM has dropped approximately 400 students. With the current enrollment projections that we're seeing for this upcoming school year, there is a better than average chance that we'll decline another 40-60 students this school year. With our decline in enrollment and subsequent decline in foundation funding, our district hasn't had the resources necessary to hire much-needed interventionists, academic facilitators, or math and literacy coaches for years. We've honestly been doing our very best to educate our students with the limited resources that we do have, while also trying to stay out of fiscal distress. Literally, any new funding increases appropriated by the legislature, which by the way are greatly appreciated, have been used to overcome losses of student foundation funding, so we can never get ahead and use our new money to purchase the critical resources our struggling learners need and deserve, such as reading and math interventionists.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Finally, another major reason for our inability to provide the recommended bonuses is the fact that our district's ESSER (I, II, &amp; ARP III) allocations were much less than most of the districts in Arkansas when looked at on a per pupil basis. In fact, our ESSER II allocation was so little, that West Fork was one of 39 districts that were given supplemental funding by DESE to get us to an average of \$600 per student. I know of districts in the state that received over \$5,000 per student out of the same funding. As for our ARP ESSER III funding, we received \$840,153.37, which figures out to approximately \$968 per student. There are districts all over the state that are being funded thousands of dollars on a per pupil basis. One district that I know of is receiving over \$14,000 per student. If the West Fork School District received the funding that most districts received, we would easily be able to follow the ALC's bonus recommendation.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">In closing, I can tell you that the West Fork School District has not spent one penny from any ESSER funding source that we've received on new buses, HVAC for our buildings, paying employees to take COVID vaccinations, providing additional compensation to teachers and other staff for working in-person, or any other "pay strategy" to provide additional compensation to teachers and other staff because we didn't receive enough funding to do any of that. It has been so frustrating to me to hear other districts complain about trying to come up with ways to spend all their funding before they run out of time. The ALC recommendation will do nothing but help them spend their allocations down, while districts like West Fork that are neighbors to some of these districts will become "villains" for not giving out a bonus because we spent all of our funding on our students' learning loss. How can that be right? I can only hope that the ALC will provide districts like West Fork that are trying to do what's best for our students to recover learning loss caused from the coronavirus pandemic, new supplemental funds so we can provide bonuses to our employees, because they deserve it as much as any other employee in any other district. With all due respect, our district shouldn't have to eliminate our interventionists in order to provide bonuses for our teachers, and we ask you to release our allocations so that we can continue moving forward with our plan.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Respectfully,</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">John Karnes, Superintendent</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">URL to ARP Budget - https://bit.ly/3p4lTYz</a></u></p>
8/9/2022 9:33	1611000	Nettleton	Karen Curtner	6,527,522.54	Yes	<a href="https://nettletonschools.net/arp-esser-plan">https://nettletonschools.net/arp-esser-plan</a>	Yes	No
8/9/2022 10:21	2602000	Fountain Lake	Dr. Michael Murphy	2,688,913.67	Yes	<a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TLtQ6TLV42WfYarBMAK7awNfo2onUWw0C7ys7u3yC70/edit#gid=959644775">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TLtQ6TLV42WfYarBMAK7awNfo2onUWw0C7ys7u3yC70/edit#gid=959644775</a>	N/A	N/A

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8/9/2022 10:31	5403000	Helena/West Helena School District	Dr. Keith McGee	8,289,726.40	Yes	<a href="https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/31/HWH_Schools/2340278/ESSA.pdf">https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/31/HWH_Schools/2340278/ESSA.pdf</a>	<a href="https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/31/HWH_Schools/2340278/ESSA.pdf">https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/31/HWH_Schools/2340278/ESSA.pdf</a>	
8/9/2022 11:35	7503000	Danville	Kim Foster	939,258.34	Yes	<a href="https://www.dps-littlejohns.net">https://www.dps-littlejohns.net</a>	<a href="https://www.dps-littlejohns.net">https://www.dps-littlejohns.net</a>	
8/9/2022 13:09	4101000	Ashdown Public Schools	Casey Nichols	2,322,976.97	Yes	<a href="https://www.ashdownschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1520750&amp;lype=d&amp;pREC_ID=1970448">https://www.ashdownschools.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1520750&amp;lype=d&amp;pREC_ID=1970448</a>		
8/9/2022 14:24	2301000	Conway Public Schools	Jeff Collum	8,805,889.40	Yes	<a href="https://www.conwayschools.org/Page/957">https://www.conwayschools.org/Page/957</a>	Did not; our plan already met the ALC expectations and exceeded them	NA See Above Answer
8/9/2022 14:30	6701000	De Queen	Jason Sanders	4,627,123.99	No	Not applicable	<a href="https://www.dequeenleopards.org/342377_2">https://www.dequeenleopards.org/342377_2</a> The De Queen School District is revising its current ARP plan and will be following the guidance from ALC regarding recruitment and retention bonuses for the 22-23 school year.	Not applicable
8/9/2022	5006000	Prescott	Robert Poole	1,364,397.13	No		Our district cannot revise the plan. All funds have been obligated or spent in projects or a previous bonus given (\$2000 certified and \$1000 classified) in 2021-2022. Our district only has learning loss funds available. Prescott School District has actually made gains in student achievement this past year due to having supplemental programs implemented with these funds. Our district sought stakeholder input and collaborated with the stakeholders in the ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan and the District has adhered to that plan.	<a href="#">Our district cannot revise the plan. All funds have been obligated or spent in projects or a previous bonus given (\$2000 certified and \$1000 classified) in 2021-2022. Our district only has learning loss funds available. Prescott School District has actually made gains in student achievement this past year due to having supplemental programs implemented with these funds. Our district sought stakeholder input and collaborated with the stakeholders in the ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan and the District has adhered to that plan. The recommended bonus would cost our district \$699,447.00 Our total amount of ARP ESSER allocation was \$2,557,751.97 and the District spent \$265,863 on bonuses (Certified/Classified) and has a set aside of \$511,550.39 for learning loss. The District was prior approved for a space project that has a total amount of \$1,780,338. due to increased costs due to inflation/COVID. Our district would desire nothing more than to give the recommended bonus to all staff; however, now that we are looking at a space project underway to be finished in a few months AND learning loss funds to be used on programs that are addressing the learning loss for students, WE cannot accommodate this recommendation. URL: <a href="https://www.curleywolves.org/documents/state-required/use-of-esser-funds/226885">https://www.curleywolves.org/documents/state-required/use-of-esser-funds/226885</a></a>
8/9/2022 15:01	6053000	Premier High Schools of Arkansas	Rhonda Bradford	374,793.72	Yes	<a href="https://4.files.edl.io/7fa8/06/08/22/142441-f231ab63-d278-46c4-b4a6-cdd04f217f37.pdf">https://4.files.edl.io/7fa8/06/08/22/142441-f231ab63-d278-46c4-b4a6-cdd04f217f37.pdf</a>	Funds were already allocated for retention bonuses	N/A
8/9/2022 15:03	6062000	Premie High School North Little Rock	Rhonda Bradford	312,434.18	Yes	<a href="https://4.files.edl.io/bbfb/06/08/22/143255-d83042d2-8c7b-460b-a3e1-116ff26abfbc.pdf">https://4.files.edl.io/bbfb/06/08/22/143255-d83042d2-8c7b-460b-a3e1-116ff26abfbc.pdf</a>	Funds were already allocated for this purpose.	N/A
8/9/2022 15:04	7242000	Premier High School Springdale	Rhonda Bradford	157,211.73	Yes	<a href="https://4.files.edl.io/b81c/07/21/22/134614-66851424-d059-4650-b152-13a79d549262.pdf">https://4.files.edl.io/b81c/07/21/22/134614-66851424-d059-4650-b152-13a79d549262.pdf</a>	Funds were already allocated for this purpose.	N/A
8/9/2022 15:34	203000	Hamburg	Tracy Streeter	2,640,157.04	No		<p>The plan was revised and approved by our board on 8/8/22. It provides a cumulative amount up to \$6700 for certified and classified. It started with a \$200 payment to staff members that had been vaccinated in 2020. In May of 2021, a \$2,500.00 additional compensation payment to all staff for the added duties imposed. It was based on 159 days x \$15.72 per day for all staff that performed COVID related duties on said days. Proper paperwork was gathered and verified. This was paid with ESSER II funds. Then the board approved on 8-8-22 a payment for the following: \$1000 to be issued September 2022 for staying in Hamburg and \$1000 in December for working the entire semester. There will be another \$1000 paid in September 2023 and another \$1000 paid in December 2023.</p> <p>These payments are strictly to retain and recruit staff members. The teacher shortage is a BIG issue we are facing. We are also hoping it will help us with classified recruitment. We have a shortage of all workers regardless the classification. We will also offer a bonus when possible out of our operating funds. Our hope is that the legislators will support teacher salaries with the understanding the gap is only getting wider throughout the state. The greater the difference of starting teacher salaries, the bigger equity problem we face as a state.</p> <p>So with these revisions and allowing for the use of prior and future additional payments from other funding sources Hamburg School District has provided justification and meets the recommendation.</p> <p>The following is the link to review our board approved, revised plan: <a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschooifiles/1021/esser_revision.pdf">https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschooifiles/1021/esser_revision.pdf</a></p>	

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8/9/2022 15:57	6043000	Arkansas Virtual Academy	Amy J Johnson	4,625,130.93	No			<p><u>URL of approved ARP ESSER fund:</u>  <a href="https://arva.k12.com/content/dam/schools/arva/files/sy2223/ARVA_ARP_ESSER_Application_REVISED_8_9_22.pdf">https://arva.k12.com/content/dam/schools/arva/files/sy2223/ARVA_ARP_ESSER_Application_REVISED_8_9_22.pdf</a></p> <p><u>Justification of funds: The entirety of ARVA's ARP ESSER funds have been contractually obligated. The 20% learning loss portion has been designated in majority to the addition of 8 interventionist positions to address learning loss in students and to lighten teachers' loads. The remaining portion of the funds were approved by the Arkansas Department of Education for a capital improvement project that includes the purchase and renovation of a building to serve as a home-base for ARVA. The project was approved as a teacher retention effort as our teachers currently meet in a variety of rented spaces all over Central Arkansas each month. Additionally, this project was a COVID prevention measure, as the leased spaces posed health issues because of our lack of control over air systems, available square footage, lessor COVID policies etc. Rented spaces were not available consistently and this also created a lack of stability in experience for teachers. The new property also serves as a learning loss tool, as we will begin to ask students to participate in more hybrid opportunities in order to recover lost standards and skills, as well as to make computer labs, EAST opportunities, and hands on experiences possible.</u></p> <p><u>These projects and positions have caused the entirety of funds to be committed. However, we would also share that retention and recruitment have not been an issue for ARVA, as our teachers work entirely from home, outside of monthly trainings. We have retained teachers at a rate of 97% and remain fully hired. Additionally, we have bonused our teachers annually for many years, with those bonuses ranging from \$1,200 to nearly \$4000 based on performance and student growth outcomes. Teacher salaries have been increased by 14.17% since the 2019-20 school year as an effort to retain our teachers and to honor their effort and hard work. In so doing, we have raised the minimum teacher salary to \$40,000. Our goal is to continue to increase this minimum salary, as well as the overall average salary for our staff in a continual annual improvement process.</u></p>
8/9/2022 16:27	5504000	South Pike County Schools	Tanya Wilcher	550,735.82	No		<p>We are making revisions to give another retention &amp; recruitment pay at the end of this year. By doing so we will have given a total of \$565,990 to all employees from a combination of ESSER II and ARP ESSER funds. That is more than it would have cost us to give a flat \$5000 and \$2500 to our employees. That flat rate would have cost our district \$535,425.</p>	<p><u>We have not changed our plan to give a flat \$5000 and \$2500 to the employees because we have other contracts that have to be honored. We have revised the plan to give our remaining balance after these contracts to the employees. The revised plan can be found at the following URL:</u>  <a href="https://www.google.com/url?q=https://docs.google.com/document/d/1l15p5UgCk5saS2_TpNEngXuK19vLaGQ/edit?usp%3Dsharing%26oid%3D113327195474732489065%26trtpof%3Dtrue%26sd%3Dtrue&amp;sa=D&amp;source=editors&amp;ust=1660083953975929&amp;usq=AOvVaw1dpYqJntJqo2uL5K5XKG">https://www.google.com/url?q=https://docs.google.com/document/d/1l15p5UgCk5saS2_TpNEngXuK19vLaGQ/edit?usp%3Dsharing%26oid%3D113327195474732489065%26trtpof%3Dtrue%26sd%3Dtrue&amp;sa=D&amp;source=editors&amp;ust=1660083953975929&amp;usq=AOvVaw1dpYqJntJqo2uL5K5XKG</a></p>
8/9/2022 16:34	407000	Pea Ridge	Keith Martin	931,948.56	No			<p><u>Pea Ridge School District will be unable to comply with the Arkansas Legislative Committee's (ALC) recommendation to give a \$5,000 bonus to licensed employees and a \$2,500 bonus to classified employees. The district would like to comply but it is not possible at this time. Pea Ridge District is committed to consistently evaluating and planning for salary increases for all employees, as we have demonstrated by providing our employees with \$1750.00 in bonuses over the last two fiscal years. The starting average salary for certified teachers in the Pea Ridge School District is \$42,300.00 which is above the state average.</u></p> <p><u>The funding formula used to distribute American Rescue Plan (ARP) money to schools was not equitable. Pea Ridge School District received \$1,361,762.00, which is equal to approximately \$583 per student. There are some districts in Arkansas that received approximately \$14,000 per student which is 24 times the amount of money Pea Ridge School District received per student. The ARP legislation required that a minimum of 20% of the allocation be set aside to address student learning loss. After taking out the 20% (\$272,352.00) that was required, the district is left with \$1,089,410.00 in ARP funds. The cost to cover the recommendations of the ALC for Pea Ridge School District would be approximately \$1,581,250.00, which is a shortfall of \$491,840.00. The district's dispersed amount of funding will not cover the cost of the recommended bonuses.</u></p> <p><u>Throughout ESSER funding distribution and through ARP allocations, there have been multiple communications to school districts from DESE. Districts were not advised that an across the board bonus could be given to staff members from ESSER or ARP funds. The language regarding how to utilize these funds in fact discouraged spending in this manner. Until recently, districts that were allowed to issue any additional pay for staff members from ESSER or ARP funds were told to write extensive plans justifying the additional pay. Districts were told that they should count the number of days an employee worked during the year and pay a dollar amount per day for additional duties related to COVID-19.</u></p> <p><u>Based on guidance, the district developed a plan for ARP funds in July of 2021. This plan was developed with input from stakeholders and focused on addressing student learning loss and needs that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The team's focus was on our students. Based on guidance, we created a plan to utilize the money allocated for our district.</u></p> <p><u>The ALC bonus recommendation is based on a memo issued by the United States Department of Education (USDOE) that states school districts can use ARP funds for recruitment and retention bonuses to staff. A general bonus payment, as has been recommended, does not meet either of those qualifications. There are no stipulations recommended that would help our district recruit new employees or retain current employees. We are not certain that an across the board bonus to current employees with no additional conditions attached meets the expectation of the USDOE.</u></p> <p><u>While the reasons Pea Ridge School District cannot comply with this recommendation of the ALC are numerous, I would very much like to recommend a bonus for the district's employees. Please consider additional money to be appropriated to help district's such as Pea Ridge that were significantly underfunded compared to other districts. I believe Pea Ridge School District is in the bottom 10 within the state of per student allocations. This precedent has been set with ESSER II supplemental funding. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.</u></p> <p><u>Respectfully Submitted,</u></p> <p><u>Keith Martin</u>  <u>Superintendent</u>  <u>Pea Ridge School District</u></p> <p><a href="https://docs.google.com/document/u/2/d/e/2PACX-1vTL7sAj9G_RfTlIcSbsInKZMPWhZGjLdU9nmnmj_wVc16bhxMFSGUREZQY7sIKXXHEyxcJ7y1GoADFE/pub?urp=gmail_link">https://docs.google.com/document/u/2/d/e/2PACX-1vTL7sAj9G_RfTlIcSbsInKZMPWhZGjLdU9nmnmj_wVc16bhxMFSGUREZQY7sIKXXHEyxcJ7y1GoADFE/pub?urp=gmail_link</a></p>

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8/9/2022 17:51	1507000	South Conway County School District	Shawn Halbrook	2,954,424.48	No			<p><u>The South Conway County School District (SCCSD) had an allotment of \$5,630,162.10 of ARP ESSER Funds. To meet and exceed the 20% set aside for learning loss the SCCSD budgeted \$1,170,412 to help meet the learning needs of our scholars.</u></p> <p><u>In the plan the SCCSD budgeted in the Creating a Safe and Healthy Learning Environments \$3,376,481.46. This helped purchase virtual learning services in grades K-12, cleaning supplies and equipment to maintain a safe environment, the installation of ultraviolet air filtration in every building in the District for staff and student safety, HVAC upgrades at Grades 2-3 campus and 7-8 campus that helped create a safer and more healthy environment, addition of HVAC to three (3) PE facilities, purchase of four (4) larger capacity buses to increase social distancing, and personnel for leading the virtual learning environment for students. Many of these projects have been completed or are near completion. The SCCSD has currently \$2,581,567.85 encumbered or paid out in this category.</u></p> <p><u>In the supporting Staff Stability and Well-Being the plan has \$1,083,268 budgeted. The SCCSD has expended \$894,095.30 to date on the following:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>1. "COVID Pay" for all staff at \$10 per day for 70 days of school and \$15 per day for 103 days of school that each staff member was present helping clean desks and doorknobs. the maximum pay for each staff member could have been \$2,245 plus benefits at 25% for a total of \$2806.25. The total cost was \$793,197.90</u></li> <li><u>2. \$250 vaccine incentive to each staff member for a total of 83,469</u></li> <li><u>3. Overtime for nurses, Point of Contact, and substitutes - \$17,430.65</u></li> </ol> <p><u>Our plan is to use unused funds in Creating a Safe and Healthy Learning Environment to the Staff Stability category for a total of \$984,086 funds that have been unallocated. This would enable the District to pay an additional \$2,500 to our staff for "COVID Pay" plus benefits at 25%. To meet the ALC recommendations of the \$5,000 bonus to certified staff and \$2,500 to classified staff, the District would expend \$1,600,000. There is only \$984,086 that is left unencumbered. We cannot meet the ALC's recommendation.</u></p> <p><u>To date, the SCCSD has invested with all Federal COVID funds by giving our staff a total of \$1,719,574.09. All staff have had to opportunity to receive in "COVID Duty Pay" and "Vaccine Incentive Pay" with benefits a total of \$4,247.50 per person. That is in addition to paying classroom teachers for developing the online curriculum a stipend with benefits roughly \$1,250. A classroom teacher could have received \$5,497.50 from the SCCSD if they have not missed a day of school, got the vaccine, and completed the online curriculum development from the COVID Federal Funds.</u></p> <p><u>Our plan is to pay \$2,500 "COVID Pay" plus the 25% benefits, making the total \$3,125 to each staff member. If the \$3,125 is added to the \$4,247.50 that all staff and the \$5,497.50 for classroom teachers have already received, then the total money the SCCSD has paid out to our staff from Federal COVID will be \$7,372.50 and \$8,622.50 to classroom teachers.</u></p> <p><u>Our current plan is located at <a href="https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/2330/sccsd/2032620/REVISED_ARP_ESSER_-_SCCSD_Plan_for_Use_of_ARP_ESSER_Funds-page-008.pdf">https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/2330/sccsd/2032620/REVISED_ARP_ESSER_-_SCCSD_Plan_for_Use_of_ARP_ESSER_Funds-page-008.pdf</a></u></p>
8/9/2022 18:02	3604000	Lamar	Jay Holland	4,578,403.04	Yes	<p><a href="https://www.lamarwarriors.org/577761_3">https://www.lamarwarriors.org/577761_3</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.lamarwarriors.org/594503_3">https://www.lamarwarriors.org/594503_3</a></p> <p>Our Retention/Incentive Plan started this past year with ESSER II funds. We used \$2,200 per employee (both Licensed and Classified) before Benefits, and a total of \$512,856.00. We are planning on using ARP ESSER III funds for the year two (\$2,400), and year three (\$2,600) parts of the Retention/Incentive plan. The plan is stair stepped for each year, and each employee will receive an addition \$5,000. An employee that stays employed with the District for three years may received \$7,200 and prior to Benefits, an estimated total of \$975,000.</p>		

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8/10/2022 8:31	6605000	Lavaca	Steve Rose	1,057,984.39	No		No	<p>1) <a href="#">Justification of ARP ESSER Funding Plan for Lavaca School District</a></p> <p><a href="#">In efforts to Create a Safe and Healthy Learning Environment for students and staff of Lavaca School District, on Sept. 1, 2021, the Lavaca School Board of Education selected Architecture Plus Inc. and an AIA document (B101-217) was signed for HVAC upgrades to be completed at various buildings at Lavaca School District campus to enhance the quality of air in the classrooms.</a></p> <p><a href="#">On November 30, 2021, Lavaca School District approved the quote of \$945,378 from Multi Craft Contractors Inc. (MMC) for the HVAC upgrades at Lavaca Middle School and Lavaca High School. A contract was signed by Lavaca School District on 12-2-2021 with MCC.</a></p> <p><a href="#">On January 17, 2022 an addendum in the amount of \$9785.35 was approved by Lavaca School Board bringing the total of the project to \$955,163.35 + architectural fee of \$57,309.80 bringing the total project cost to \$1,012,473.15. \$1,006,782.14 is coming out of ARP ESSER and the remaining balance will be paid with operating funds.</a></p> <p><a href="#">The remaining balance of the district's allocation of \$251,695.54 is dedicated to learning loss and totals 20% of the total allocation.</a></p> <p><a href="#">In lieu of using our allotted ESSER II and ARP ESSER funds for additional duty pay and recruitment and retention pay due to Covid-19 the district chose to take it out of local fund balances. During the 2020-21 school year all contracted staff members received two bonuses for the aforementioned reasons totaling \$ 1,750. In 2021-22 all contracted staff received another \$750. The district plans on paying an additional \$2,500 in bonuses in this manner over the next two years and this will total \$5000 for all contracted employees over a four year period.</a></p> <p>2) <a href="https://www.lavacaschools.com/318244_2">https://www.lavacaschools.com/318244_2</a></p>
8/10/2022 9:19	6040000	Academics Plus Charter Schools, Inc. (APCSI)	Rob McGill	875,269.89	No			<p>1. <a href="#">At the end of the 2021-2022 SY including all categories of ESSER/ARP APCS has \$867,898.99 remaining. To give the one time bonuses as recommended by ALC the total cost would exceed \$910,000. This would more than expend all remaining ESSER/ARP funds.</a></p> <p>2. <a href="#">It is important to note that APCS has used the ESSER/ARP funds as a part of a larger overall budget. By using ESSER/ARP funds on qualifying items APCS has been able to free up funds in operating over the past two years to give substantial raises to teachers and staff. APCS increased the teacher stipend schedule substantially and gave a \$2000 raise for the 2021-2022 SY. This year teacher salaries were increased an additional \$1000. Because APCS has given teacher raises every year for the past 12 years the APCS minimum teacher salary is now \$41,000. For the 2021-2022 SY support staff received an across the board increase of \$1per hour with an additional 2.5% raise. This year support staff received an additional 2.5% raise. Support staff have also received a raise every year for the past 12 years. For the past two years APCS has also extended the salary schedule steps for teachers and support staff by adding a step each year. Another extension to the salary schedule step is planned for next year.</a></p> <p>3. <a href="#">APCSI has just completed building the new Maumelle Charter High School. To complete the building APCS is planning to use \$3.5 million dollars in cash reserves for one-time expenditures. When planning for the building APCS understood that the current surplus would be reduced significantly. Without the ARP Funds being used as planned the reduction in surplus would be an additional \$868K over the next two years or programs would have to be cut.</a></p> <p>4. <a href="#">Currently, the Maumelle campus has a state-imposed student cap of 1600 students. The cap will increase by 100 each of the next four years until we reach 2000 students. With the current waitlist the goal of 2000 students is on schedule to be obtained. APCS's budget plan is for ESSER/ARP to bridge the gap for expenses caused by program changes due to the pandemic. As the student population increases over the next couple of years APCS will be able to sustain these program changes with operating funds.</a></p> <p>5. <a href="#">Due to the pandemic program changes were necessary and APCS has had increased expenditures in the following areas:</a></p> <p><a href="#">a. Technology - For the 2022-2023 SY APCS has budgeted \$126,000 to support one-to-one learning and to prepare for the possibility of the need for remote learning in the future. For the 2023-2024 SY APCS has budgeted \$167,900 for this same purpose. For the 2024-2025 SY there is \$6,036 budgeted. Without these ARP funds these expenditures would have to be spent from operating funds or APCS would have to discontinue the one-to-one technology plan for students as planned. These expenses can be sustained in operating once the student numbers increase.</a></p> <p><a href="#">b. Curricula and Distance Learning - For the 2022-2023 SY APCS has budgeted \$124,000 for curriculum and distance learning. For the 2023-2024 SY the budget is \$160,000. For the 2024-2025 SY the budget is \$100,000. APCS has found that many more students are requesting distance learning courses since the pandemic. APCS has also identified the need to update curricula to better prepare students and also assist in catching students up from the learning loss they experienced due to the pandemic.</a></p> <p><a href="#">c. Summer School - APCS has conducted summer school for the past two years and plans to continue offering summer school with ARP funds for the next two years. The budget for summer school for the 2022-2023 SY is \$25,000. The budget for the 2023-2024 SY is \$25,000. The budget for the 2024-2025 SY is \$5,000. The purpose of summer school is to give struggling students additional time with teachers to help them with learning loss experienced due to the pandemic. Without the use of ARP funds summers school would not be offered in the future.</a></p> <p><a href="#">d. Assistant Principal at Scott Charter School (SCS) - Due to the pandemic SCS has experienced student loss. To bridge the gap until SCS can increase enrollment APCS has budgeted for an assistant principal through ARP for the 2022-2023 SY and 2023-2024 SY. Without the use of ARP funds this position would be eliminated. School has already started and the assistant principal is employed.</a></p> <p><a href="#">6. If the APCS ARP funds were diverted to pay for teacher/staff bonuses APCS would not have the funds to continue with one-to-one technology, curricula upgrades, summer school and an assistant principal at SCS. The ARP funds are bridging the gap until we can increase enrollment at both Maumelle and Scott. Once the enrollment increases these initiatives will be funded through operating funds.</a></p> <p><a href="#">7. It is important to understand that APCS has a free/reduced meal rate of approximately 27%. Because of the low percentage, APCS received a lower amount of ESSER/ARP funding than many districts/charters across the state.</a></p> <p><a href="#">8. APCS has already purchased items budgeted for this year and the assistant principal has begun working. APCS is currently awaiting reimbursement for the items purchased and the salary expended for the assistant principal.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Thank you for your consideration.</a></p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tLaCGbj1hz8hiCPFJBb-NkoYlob7YxMV/view">ESSER Plan URL - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tLaCGbj1hz8hiCPFJBb-NkoYlob7YxMV/view</a></p>
8/10/2022 10:51	6004000	Jacksonville North Pulaski School District	Dr. Jeremy S. Owoh	12,114,128.98	Yes	yes	<a href="https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1469967/JN_PSD_ARP_Plan_Version_1_8-13-21.pdf">https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1469967/JN_PSD_ARP_Plan_Version_1_8-13-21.pdf</a>	Our classified and licensed employees received additional pay from our ARP funds in June 2022; our District plans to remit the remaining amounts up to the ALC recommendations for classified and licensed employees.



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8/10/2022 14:24	3904000	Lee County School District	Micheal Stone	6,240,645.23	No	N/A	<a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wOq42Pkzq9G70RT8A7gUfkN4oJJCpGfQNTG3NDWDpccg/edit?usp=sharing">YES https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wOq42Pkzq9G70RT8A7gUfkN4oJJCpGfQNTG3NDWDpccg/edit?usp=sharing</a>	N/A
8/10/2022 17:10	1802000	Earle	Tish Knowles	2,389,022.34	No	N/A	No	Prior to the recommendations of the ALC, Earle School District had budgeted ESSER II funds for teacher retention and recruitment and committed ARP funds to Learning Loss, HVAC upgrades, and a new roof for Earle High School. In FY21 all certified staff received additional pay from ESSER II in the amount \$1200. In FY22 all certified staff had the opportunity to receive an additional pay up to \$1800 (average of \$1565) for recruitment and retention. Based on prior commitments, the District would not be able to commit ARP funds, but will continue to use ESSER II funds to meet the recommendation of the ALC to provide recruitment and retention bonuses for all staff in the amount of \$3500.00 for certified staff and \$1700 for classified staff for the 2022-23 school year.  <a href="http://www.earle.crsd.k12.ar.us/Revised%20ARP%20ESSER.pdf">http://www.earle.crsd.k12.ar.us/Revised%20ARP%20ESSER.pdf</a>
8/11/2022 11:26	7206000	Prairie Grove	Reba Holmes	1,347,961.60	No	<a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RuvNqzldzknr0eVIAGfE10kSDL9Yu3EYucLzos7grr0/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RuvNqzldzknr0eVIAGfE10kSDL9Yu3EYucLzos7grr0/edit?usp=sharing</a>		<u>Justification:</u> 1 - The majority of the ARP budget includes the following items necessary to provide a secure environment of educational excellence for our students: a) Instructional Practices - \$750,000 was budgeted for a PGSD Board approved Learning Loss Plan that supports student learning and meets the state mandated Dyslexia requirements. This plan necessitated the hiring of six (6) new employees for the next 2 years. b) Facilities - \$500,000 used to supplement construction of an additional nine (9) classroom wing to the middle school, needed due to the safety concern of overcrowding, now in the completion stage. c) Technology - \$250,000 was budgeted for a Chromebook rotation plan to maintain one-to-one computer access for the next three (3) years for our students to learn at any time and anywhere.  2 - PGSD was allocated \$1,654,785.00 with ARP Esser Funds. The approximate cost of the ALC recommended additional pay for our staff would cost approximately \$1,118,000.00. With this cost and with the prior commitments approved from the original plan, it would create a negative balance of approximately \$1,038,000.00.  URL: <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RuvNqzldzknr0eVIAGfE10kSDL9Yu3EvucLzos7grr0/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RuvNqzldzknr0eVIAGfE10kSDL9Yu3EvucLzos7grr0/edit?usp=sharing</a>
8/11/2022 16:36	3505000	Pine Bluff School District	Barbara J. Warren	17,363,010.34	Yes	<a href="https://content.myconnects.uite.com/api/documents/45274daafd984fcb97785972d12dd765">https://content.myconnects.uite.com/api/documents/45274daafd984fcb97785972d12dd765</a>	The PBSB did NOT have to revise our plan to meet the recommendations of ALC. The district had the vision to design plans to use ESSER and ARP funds for the last two years and the upcoming year to support our COVID Response Plans. The plans have been designed to retain and recruit teachers and staff for face-to-face and in-person attendance as well as to pay teachers and staff for additional duties performed due to or in response to COVID.  As a part of the FY22 and FY23 plan that was approved at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, through an attendance incentive, certified and classified staff members who attended school/work 95% of the academic year and were in good standing for disciplinary action received a \$5000.00 (certified) and \$3000.00 (classified) incentive. The additional duty stipend paid in FY21 would provide to teachers and other staff members who served in the most risky capacities compensation at a maximum amount of \$2900.00 based on the number of days the staff member provided services. Teacher and staff who served in less risky capacities were compensated at a lesser rate, but were compensated for their services as well. All active staff members received some compensation.	Not applicable