



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

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September 9, 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 \$72,461,935

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             | 72,461,935    |
| Other: ARP Grant             |               |
| Total                        | \$ 72,461,935 |

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 * |
|----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|------------|-------|---------------------|
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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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date 9-9-22  
CH 9-9-22 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.  |
|----------------|---------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| 9/1/2022 16:53 | 401000  | Bentonville                 | Dr. Debbie Jones  | \$7,772,277.47                                    | No   |   | <a href="https://5il.co/1hfvr">https://5il.co/1hfvr</a>  | The District provided a 1.0% increase to all salary schedules and a bonus of 1.2% of each employee's contract in 2020-21. In 2021-22 a 2.5% increase to salary schedules and a bonus of 1.2% of each employee's contract was provided. In 2022-23 a 2.0% increase was provided to all salary schedules. All of these were provided out of the District operating budget. We have revised the ARP plan to provide a \$2,300 bonus to licensed and \$1,150 bonus to classified employees pending board approval in September. We have \$6.5M remaining of the \$8.2M that was provided, the 4th from the bottom when looking at the allocation per student. Bentonville Schools received \$455.49 per student while those districts at the top received \$13,189.59 per child. We are requesting additional ARP funds to fully meet the recommendation of the ALC. |
| 9/2/2022 13:26 | 6001000 | Little Rock School District | Jermall D. Wright | \$51,378,790.90                                   | No   | n/a   | <a href="https://www.lrsd.org/Page/4907">https://www.lrsd.org/Page/4907</a><br><a href="https://www.lrsd.org/cms/lib/AR02203631/Centricity/Domain/1352/LRSD%20ARP%20ESSER%20Plan%20revised%209-2-22.pdf">https://www.lrsd.org/cms/lib/AR02203631/Centricity/Domain/1352/LRSD ARP ESSER Plan revised 9-2-22.pdf</a> | N/A  |

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|----------------|---------|-------------------------|------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| 9/2/2022 19:55 | 5605000 | Trumann School District | Brandie Williams | \$4,584,685.67                                    | No   | N/A   | N/A   | <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UVNcvua2aRp_PgLcDK8qbjU5cDhMA-ul/view">ARP ESSER Use of Funds Plan revised 9.2.2022: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UVNcvua2aRp_PgLcDK8qbjU5cDhMA-ul/view</a></p> <p><u>Justification for not including the ALC PEER's recommendation in our ARP-ESSER Use of Funds Plan:</u></p> <p><u>Trumann High School is currently equipped with a geothermal HVAC system that has had mechanical issues for years. Many Trumann School District dollars are spent maintaining, repairing, replacing parts, etc. annually to keep the HVAC system operational. Every year we leave open 2-3 classrooms so that teachers can rotate in them as their classroom air or heat quits working for weeks at a time (awaiting repairs).</u></p> <p><u>When the third wave of COVID related dollars (ARP funds) were allocated and rules allowed for those monies to fund facility improvements related to COVID, the decision was made to replace the failing HVAC system. This would allow our THS students and staff to have a properly functioning, clean/fresh air (COVID friendly/safe), HVAC system for THS students.</u></p> <p><u>Written plans for approval of this project (and two others) with the state were submitted. We did receive approval (July 2021) for all three projects and proceeded to move forward with them.</u></p> <p><u>The HVAC project was written to use an Energy Savings Program Provider as the designer and construction company. We advertised (soliciting RFQs from Qualified Providers to act as Contractor/Construction Manager for an Energy Savings Contract), followed timelines, and selected the best quality company based on the RFQ--Entegrity, with whom we are under contract with currently for this project.</u></p> <p><u>Since that time, it has been a long year of inflation. Entegrity has kept us updated the past year...as many battles have been navigated. The state's price per square foot for our HVAC project replacement totaled approximately \$2 million. The first preliminary quote came in at \$6 million. The team engaged with architects, engineers, etc. and just in the last two months (after almost a year of work) was able to give an update on a workable solution at around \$4.8 million. Securing the HVAC equipment (with the supply chain issues that exist across our country) has been a HUGE hurdle---to just be able to give this updated quote this past week.</u></p> <p><u>Trumann School District (we) has allocated approximately 75% of our ARP dollars for these facility projects. With the rising inflation, we have abandoned the two smaller projects (that would improve our 75 year old middle school) and decided to allocate the remaining (approximately</u></p> |

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|----------------|---------|--------------------------------------|----------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| 9/6/2022 13:06 | 6901000 | Mountain View                        | Brent Howard   | \$4,940,876.69                                    | Yes  | <a href="https://www.mvschools.net/documents/state-required-information/state-required-data/esser-funding/243818">https://www.mvschools.net/documents/state-required-information/state-required-data/esser-funding/243818</a> | Yes.. Mountain View School District revised it's ARP ESSER use of funds plan to meet the recommendation of the ALC. The district originally had in its plan to purchase modular classrooms to reduce the need to share classrooms. The district currently has 19 staff sharing classrooms. The original plan was to purchase 3 four classroom, 1 two classroom and a building for office space to allow rooms in the current building to be used for student needs. |  |
| 9/7/2022 8:45  | 7304000 | White County Central School District | Pharis Smith   | \$818,873.78                                      | No   |   | No  | <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fyB2_50UYgR_CkR-Uxf4zrN9hGYko1EU/edit">The plan does not meet the recommendations of the ALC. Our funding was not enough to meet the requirements of the ALC. During the 21-22 school year the district used ESSER III ARP funds for staffing interventionist in the elementary, middle and high school. We hired interventionist for the 22-23 school year to help shrink the gap of learning loss within the district. Another cost was for technology Chromebooks for students in the district. The remaining balance will be used for retention and recruitment incentive for District employees. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fyB2_50UYgR_CkR-Uxf4zrN9hGYko1EU/edit</a> |

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|----------------|--------|------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| 9/7/2022 9:52  | 506000 | Lead Hill School District    | Tami Richey     | \$805,265.01                                      | No   |   |   | <p>The certified staff at Lead Hill School District (LHSD) has received Recruitment and Retention bonuses from the state the past two years that the District matched with district funds for the classified staff. The minimum amount received by all staff members each year was \$1,953, with more going to first and second year certified staff. Therefore, ARP ESSER funds were not used to provide additional pay.</p> <p>Because of prior expenditures, providing summer school to address learning loss, paying for additional staff to address learning loss, and the allocation for a current renovation project to provide more room to address learning loss, the Lead Hill School District does not have sufficient ARP ESSER funds remaining to meet the recommendation of the ALC. Based on feedback from district staff and community stakeholders, the district has adjusted our plan, including dropping an HVAC project, to include additional pay of \$3,000 for retention of employees who maintain a positive evaluation with \$1,500 to be paid in December and \$1,500 to be paid at the end of the 2022-23 school year.</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b3Z94DtWoPCdQF4S97ZYFm79_87TVb/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b3Z94DtWoPCdQF4S97ZYFm79_87TVb/view?usp=sharing</a></p> |
| 9/8/2022 13:30 | 444000 | Arkansas Connections Academy | Nicole Stephens | \$2,161,164.65                                    | No   |   |   | <p>1. ARCA's ARP ESSER 3 funds have already been budgeted for salaries/staffing, summer school, and other projects that meet the needs of the school and the requirements for allowable uses of ESSER 3 funds.</p> <p>2. <a href="https://www.connectionsacademy.com/arkansas-virtual-school/overview/governance/notices/">https://www.connectionsacademy.com/arkansas-virtual-school/overview/governance/notices/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.connectionsacademy.com/content/dam/pvs/ca/portals/79/documents/disclosures/21-22/ARCA-ARP-ESSER-3-Use-of-Funds-Revised-4-27-2022-signed.pdf">https://www.connectionsacademy.com/content/dam/pvs/ca/portals/79/documents/disclosures/21-22/ARCA-ARP-ESSER-3-Use-of-Funds-Revised-4-27-2022-signed.pdf</a></p>  |
|                |        |                              |                 | \$72,461,934.17                                   |  |   |   |  |