

ESSER II Revision

Total amount to spend was \$198,443.15. \$9,897.47 has already been spent for summer school during June 2021.

Original Plan

Additional Chromebook computers: The computers will be housed in a mobile computer charging station. Students will be able to use technology more often at school. Students who do not have access to a computer at home will be able to check out Chromebooks to take home.

Upgraded SIS system: The updated system increases the school's capacity to provide communication, information, and assistance to parents and families during the pandemic, as well as after the pandemic is over.

The updated system has a mobile app allowing for greater functionality for families that do not have access to a personal computer but do have access to a smartphone.

The updated system is connected to Google translate and any page within the system can be translated to any language. We have an ever-increasingly diverse family population who are in need of translation services.

Tracking attendance for our online learners will be enhanced.

A more effective and efficient system will save time for all students, parents, and teachers. The extra time saved will be utilized in preparing lessons, communicating with parents, and lending more one-on-one support to struggling students, which will address learning loss and improve student engagement.

Salaries and Benefits: EA will pay teachers and instructional staff who teach and assist students who have been affected by learning loss and are performing below grade level.

Summer School: During a normal school year, students are able to retain their learning across the summer months enough that they can advance in reading and math programs at a steady rate. However, due to the educational deficit caused by the pandemic, we have had an increase in the number of students who have struggled to maintain or progress in their academic performance level.

EA will address learning loss by providing a summer school program. Students will receive classroom instruction for reading, math and English fluency. Funds will be used to pay teacher and instructional staff salaries and benefits who manage and teach summer school.

Addressing Learning Loss:

EA will address learning loss by providing a summer school program. The additional weeks spent in the classroom will assist in closing the gap created by the loss of academic instruction during the school closure and transition to virtual learning during the 2020 school year.

A more effective and efficient SIS system will save time for all students, parents, and teachers. The extra time saved will be utilized in preparing lessons, communicating with parents, and lending more one-on-one support to struggling students, which will address learning loss and improve student engagement.

Additional computers will increase the number of students who have access to technology in the classroom and at home, which will increase educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors.

EA will pay teachers and instructional staff who teach and assist students who have been affected by learning loss and are performing below grade level.

During the 2021 school year, additional instructional staff was hired to assist with virtual learning and to lend support to students who need more direct academic support. We plan on retaining the additional instructional staff to assist students who need more one-on-one support during classroom instruction time.

Updated Plan

We would like to use the remaining \$188,545.68 ESSER II funds on math curriculum.

Elementary: Excelsior Academy is updating math curriculum to the Ready/iReady program. Updating to this curriculum will provide uniformity across grades K-5. This program includes a built-in diagnostic test, which will improve the school's ability to identify and address academic gaps caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the diagnostic test, students will receive instruction and practice in areas where they need the most support, and teachers can adjust lesson sequence. Students receive explicit and systematic instruction. The curriculum includes an online learning option, which allows for an easier and smoother transition to online learning when or if the need arises.

Middle School: The enVision program offers lessons with differentiation strategies, research-based instruction, testing flexibility, and adaptive learning opportunities. These combined approaches will close gaps and address learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lesson structure fits the "I do, We do, You do" learning strategy that has helped EA students excel. enVision provides a "looking back and looking forward" section that allows teachers to identify needed foundational skills quickly. In addition, enVision offers supplementary materials to help our teachers incorporate games and activities that will solidify concepts. Product research reflects enVision meets mathematical practices, rigor, core standards, and usability expectations. enVision also has accessible online lesson videos with sample solutions, which allows for an easier and smoother transition to online learning when or if the need arises.

ESSER ARP Revision

Total amount to spend was \$445,966.89. None of this money has been spent.

Original Plan

1. \$109,112.71 to salaries and benefits. With an increase in the number of students who are performing below grade level, we plan on increasing the number of challenge-level groups that are taught. This will allow us a greater ability to differentiate instruction for individual students.

All students are assessed at the beginning of each school year to determine their academic level for reading and math. Students are then placed in challenge-level ability groups where they receive small-group instruction. Students receive 60 minutes of instruction each school day for reading and 90 minutes of instruction each school day for math. The plan will allow us to:

- Employ additional instructors who provide academic support to students and teachers throughout the school day.
- Provide four reading classes (instead of two) for 51 students who are well below grade level in grades 3-5.
- Increase the number of reading intervention classes for students who are well below grade level.
- Provide additional challenge-level math groups.
- The largest math group will drop from 29 students to 24.
- The largest reading group will drop from 27 students to 21.

EA would like to reduce the percentage of 1st-grade students who are below benchmark in reading by five percent.

Formative assessments are administered every five to ten lessons to monitor academic progress throughout the school year. Based on the student's progress, instruction will be differentiated to meet the needs of each student. If a student is consistently struggling to show academic progress at their current academic ability level, the student is moved to a new group that is better aligned with their academic level.

Acadience assessments for reading and math for the BOY, MOY, and EOY will be used to measure how students are progressing academically.

2. \$42,000 for property including equipment, for a camera/security system if approved.

Camera/Security: The camera system will simplify the current contact tracing process. Contact tracers will use camera footage to identify individuals who have been exposed to COVID. Currently, they track where a positive case has been by retracing steps, and talking with multiple staff members and students to map out others who have been in contact. Cameras in the cafeteria would significantly reduce the amount of time spent looking through snapshot pictures taken daily. They won't rely on the memories of people to determine who may have been exposed, which is not always the most accurate process. Contact tracers will interrupt fewer classrooms and spend less time on the contact tracing process.

The camera system also lends to additional tracing capabilities.

- *People Heatmaps:* Live and historical heat maps on floor plans give insight into where people congregate, giving administrators visibility onto where to direct cleaning efforts or crowd control. The area identified in the alert will be physically targeted for crowd disbursement and extra cleaning.
- *Instant alerts:* Administration and contact tracers receive instant alerts when cameras detect a number of people in-frame that meet or exceed a predetermined threshold. This will prevent crowding and spread of disease.

The camera system will be purchased from a reputable company with experience in school camera systems. EA has seen the camera in action and understands how the functionality will benefit the school.

Security Systems: The security system will allow the school to easily manage a return to work plan by creating custom access control schedules for different facilities that give groups of staff or students access to the building and specific doors at certain times.

Remote monitoring - Remote viewing on any device, ensuring schools have access and visibility to events happening across their campuses in real-time.

3. \$261,397.14 to purchased property services. A remodel of the elementary school that will enable students to attend reading and math with smaller class sizes.

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2. \$191,859.8 for reading curriculum. The curriculum updates our current curriculum to the latest version. The new version has an online option, allowing students to participate at home in the event the school needs to close for COVID reasons.

Excelsior Academy has successfully used the Reading Mastery program since its inception. This program has proven to be extremely successful in preparing students for RISE assessments and identifying weaknesses and holes in students' learning, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in Reading. Recently the Reading Mastery company produced an updated version called Reading Mastery Transformations, which is a new program with a greater focus on vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. We believe this will play an integral role in closing gaps produced by COVID for our students. The updated program includes an online learning option, which allows for an easier and smoother transition to online learning when or if the need arises.

3. \$144,994.38 for a camera/security system. The amount originally allotted and approved for the camera/security systems was a lesser amount, and only paid for a partial system in our elementary building. The updated amount will pay to expand the system to our middle school building. The camera/security system was previously approved through the original ESSER ARP grant process, as well as the capital expenditure application.

Camera System: The camera system will simplify the current contact tracing process. Contact tracers will use camera footage to identify individuals who have been exposed to COVID. Currently, they track where a positive case has been by retracing steps, and talking with multiple staff members and students to map out others who have been in contact. Cameras in the cafeteria would significantly reduce the amount of time spent looking through snapshot pictures taken daily. They won't rely on the memories of people to determine who may have been exposed, which is not always the most accurate process. Contact tracers will interrupt fewer classrooms and spend less time on the contact tracing process.

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