

Lorenzo ISD

ARP ESSER III Use of Funds Plan

The ARP ESSER III grant program is authorized in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP), signed into law in March 2021. This application will provide funding to the district in two major categories. One area would address the student learning loss due to COVID-19 and the second area would address the safe re-opening of the public-school district. The application also deals with other areas related to COVID-19 issues such as retaining employees, operational needs of the school district due to COVID-19 issues, and teacher support. The period of availability for ARP ESSER III grant funds is from March 13, 2020 (with pre-award), to September 30, 2024 (with carryover). The intent and purpose of the ARP Act of 2021, ESSER III funding is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students.

Lorenzo ISD has applied to utilize their Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER) allocation over the following school years:

- 2021-2022
- 2022-2023
- 2023-2024

For the following items as identified by stakeholders under the minimum 20% required set-aside:

- Counselor salary in order to respond to students' emotional and mental health needs.
- Title I, Part C tutors
- Interventionist
- Salaries of instructional staff to address the academic impact of lost instructional time among LEA students and respond to their academic, social, emotional, and/or mental health needs.

For the following items as identified by stakeholders for the remaining funds:

- Staff salaries in order to continue employing existing staff

Section 18006 of the CARES Act (ESSER I) and Section 315 of the CRSSA Act (ESSER II) require, to the greatest extent practicable, entities that receive funds to continue to pay their employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus. Further, Section 18003(d)(12) of the CARES Act, Section 313(d)(14) of the CRRSA Act, and Section 2001(e)(2)(R) of the ARP Act (ESSER III) allow ESSER funds to support "other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local education agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA."