

Public Notice Intent to Apply for Federal Grant Funds

The Center ISD is applying for the American Rescue Plan (APR) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Grant funding for 2020-2023. These federal funds were appropriated to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for public education purposes under the ARP Act through the ESSER III Fund.

ARP ESSER III Overview

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, was enacted on March 11, 2021. The ARP Act provides additional funding for school districts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Education portion of ARP is known as the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III or ARP ESSER) Fund.

General Grant Information:

- Grant Timeframe: Grant expires September 30, 2023. If needed, districts can carry over unused funds and be allowed to continue spending until September 30, 2024.
- Districts will be required to follow all federal, state and local regulations and requirements for federal grants administration and fiscal spending of funds.
- The Center ISD has been allocated an initial two-thirds of \$4,185,125 and the remaining one-third of \$2,092,562 for a total of \$6,277,687, to be expended over a three year period.

ARP ESSER III Purpose: The purpose of the ARP ESSER III fund is to address learning loss and support the safe reopening and sustaining safe operations of schools while meeting students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. They will provide evidence-based interventions such as summer learning, extended day comprehensive after-school programs. These funds address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools.

Guidelines:

- ARP ESSER III grant funds were issued for one-time or short-term types of expenditures to address the identified needs caused by the pandemic. Although long-term uses of the ARP ESSER III funds are also allowable, the Center ISD makes no assumptions that the state will provide replacement funds for ARP ESSER III in future years.
- 20% of the grant must be used on evidence-based interventions such as summer learning, extended day, and comprehensive after-school programs.

Center ISD Tentative Plan For ARP ESSER III Funding will also toward providing mental health services and supports, planning and implementing summer learning, classroom instruction, and instructional tools to address learning loss to meet the comprehensive needs of all students, and providing information and assistance to parents and families. Funding will also include

provision for student academic support through targeted interventions and tutoring and provision for student learning supplies. Student social and emotional support will be addressed through Social Emotional Learning curriculum, playground equipment, and professional development for teachers. COVID-19 safety measures will be taken through DNC cleaning services and supplies, camera for contact tracing, HVAC repair or replacement, and the replacing of restroom facilities with touch-free technology.

Public Notification and Comments: Public notice and comments are requested to help Center ISD determine how to prioritize spending of the ARP ESSER III funds. Surveys were provided for a wide variety of stakeholders including parent and community members, school staff, and students.