

POLAND CSD AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSER) PLAN PROPOSAL

The 2021-22 enacted state budget includes language requires school districts, receiving funding from the Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund allocated by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP-ESSER) to post on its website a draft plan by July 1, of how these funds will be spent. New York has been allocated nearly \$9 billion in ARP-ESSER funds, with a minimum of \$8.09 billion (90%) going to local education agencies, including public schools.

Districts are also required to prioritize spending on non-recurring expenses in the following areas:

- Safely returning students to in-person instruction;
- Maximizing in-person instruction time;
- Operating schools and meeting the needs of students;
- Purchasing educational technology;
- Addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, including the impacts of interrupted instruction and learning loss and the impacts on low-income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness;
- Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs;
- Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, extended learning and enrichment programs; and
- Identifying programs and services that will continue beyond the availability of these federal funds and how local funds will be used moving forward to minimize disruption to core academic and other school programs.

FUNDS RECEIVED

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)				American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)						
CRRSAA 90% LEA CRRSAA ESSER 2 ALLOCATION	2021-22 Enacted State Budget Allocations		Total CRRSAA Allocation	90% ARP-ESSER Allocation		2021-22 Enacted State Budget Allocations ("Learning Loss Grants")				Total ARPA ESSER 3 Allocation
	CRRSAA ESSER 2 Discretionary Allocation	CRRSAA GEER 2 Allocation		State-Level Reserves Total Grant	20% Required Reserve: Learning Loss	State-Level Reserves Total Grant	1% State-Level Reserve: Summer Enrichment	1% State-Level Reserve: After School Program	5% State-Level Reserve: "Learning Loss"	
\$592,220	\$0	\$0	\$592,220	\$1,330,042	\$266,008	\$700,000	\$100,002	\$100,002	\$499,996	\$2,030,042

Poland, as noted in the far right column, has been allocated \$2,030,042. Of this total, certain funds will be earmarked specifically to address learning gaps due to interrupted learning.

Before posting this plan, the district presented information at the regularly scheduled May 20, 2021 Board of Education Meeting and a June 15, 2021 Special Board of Education Meeting. The District gathered information from department supervisors, technology leaders, and the Facilities Committee June 1, 2021 to identify needs and receive initial feedback. Since spending plans are for school years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023, the district will continue to evaluate needs and collect community feedback through the upcoming school year. Next pages include plans by each priority area.

Safely returning to in-person instruction

Plan summary: Poland's priority is on the health and safety of students, staff and their families for all in-person instruction and school-based activities. The district will follow recommendations and guidance from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), New York State Education Department (NYSED), Herkimer County Public Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The district plans to allocate the GEER II grant funding years 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 to salaries to employ and retain teaching staff necessary to focus on learning loss among students. Additionally, the need for ongoing support staff employees in the area of nursing care, food and instructional material distribution and safety during arrival and dismissal times. A dismissal before the established 3 pm time will be implemented if the time is needed for the district to

- Transport students safely
- Provide food service and retrofit additional areas for eating during meal periods
- Ensure social distance

Maximizing in-person instruction

Plan summary: Poland students, to the extent possible, will remain in small cohorts. Class sizes will be reduced to ensure proper social distancing as directed by NYSED and the Departments of Health. Class sizes will reflect the need to ensure that students are positioned at an adequate social distance. To help support social distancing procedures, our schools will minimize the amount of travel throughout the school buildings to the greatest extent possible. Whenever possible, students will utilize outside spaces for physical education instruction and our focus will be to

- Maintain low student to teacher contact ratios
- Reduce class sizes as needed
- Increase social emotional learning supports
- Utilize health screening protocols

Operating schools and meeting the needs of students with repairs and improvements to support health needs, reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards

Plan summary: Poland will use and provide personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves as well as sanitation equipment and supplies to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. ARP ESSER funds will be used to provide resources to minimize the spread of infectious diseases. The district will purchase supplies to sanitize and clean buildings and classrooms. The district will repair and improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, maintain physical distancing models, and improve air quality and HVAC systems. The headings below provide additional specificity.

Purchasing educational technology

Plan summary: Poland will make computer devices available to students and teachers who need them. The district has adopted Google Classroom as a primary platform for students/families to access instructional materials and lessons. The district has also adopted Gmail as a universal communication

system for both students and teachers and will support professional development to strengthen implementation.

School Messenger and ParentSquare are the district-adopted mass-notification resources for communication from the classroom to the district level, featuring texts, emails and a mobile app to reach families in their preferred method.

The district will continue to use these platforms to notify staff, students and families/caregivers about school operations to best meet the needs of students. The district will evaluate the need to replace Chromebooks as they become damaged or obsolete and also continue to provide hotspots for students who do not have reliable internet access.

Addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on all students

Plan summary: Poland is committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to develop intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically in a safe, orderly and healthy environment while preparing students for success beyond graduation. The district will continue to utilize computer-based assessment as part of the instructional program, to inform the need for additional support for students. Data will provide information for differentiated and small group instruction.

Instructional staff who support learning needs for economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness will receive professional development support through regional workshops and training.

Implementing evidence-based programs to meet students' social, emotional, mental health and academic needs

Plan summary: Poland will implement programs that support social, emotional, and mental health and reduce the effects of stress and trauma associated with the pandemic. Meeting the social-emotional needs of students and responding to learning needs with strong curriculum and instructional materials will occur with support from areas resources like Catholic Charities, School Safety Services and Programs, and utilizing an Educational Technology Specialist.

Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs

Plan summary: Poland Central School District may use funds to offer evidence-based summer and afterschool programs. The district will plan for future summer "camps" that focus on early childhood education, foster a love for reading, and promote health and wellness.