



NORTH MERRICK
UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
—Nurturing Young Minds—

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ARP-ESSER Funding Plan

JUNE 2021

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Introduction

The 2021-22 enacted state budget includes language requiring local education agencies, such as school districts, that receive 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 plan by school year 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 percent) going to local education agencies, including public schools. North Merrick UFSD has been allocated \$906,376.33

Of this total, the following amounts must be dedicated toward specific areas:

- \$100,002 for summer enrichment/summer programming
- \$100,002 for after school programming
- \$499,996 to address learning loss

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, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; and
- Supporting early childhood education.

In addition, districts must identify programs and services that will continue beyond the availability of these federal funds and how local funds will be used moving forward in order to minimize disruption to core academic and other school programs.

Before posting this plan, districts are required to seek public comment from parents, teachers and other stakeholders and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

Safely returning students to in-person instruction

Plan Summary:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the guidance provided by Federal, State, and Local authorities, the windows which cannot be opened at the Camp Avenue Elementary School need to be repaired to provide additional ventilation.

Funds will be used for Balance Replacement in Camp Avenue School to improve air quality in classrooms, which are a non-recurring expense. Funding will also be used to provide additional Guidance counsel services throughout the District.

Maximizing in-person instruction time

Plan Summary:

To maximize in-person instruction time, funds will be used to access digital and print resources and programs to enrich our Tier 1 and Tier 2 intervention support for students in grades K-6. North Merrick UFSD is committed to fostering student motivation and engagement through science. Funds will be used to purchase resources and pay teacher collegial circle stipends to collaborate and make science instruction exciting and relevant. Funds will also be used for increase in staffing for academic support and summer programs district wide.

Operating schools and meeting the needs of students

Plan Summary:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the guidance provided by Federal, State, and Local authorities, the windows which cannot be opened at the Camp Avenue Elementary School need to be repaired to provide additional ventilation.

Funds will be used for Balance Replacement in Camp Avenue School to improve air quality in classrooms, which are a non-recurring expense. Funding will also be used to provide additional Guidance counsel services throughout the District.

Purchase of educational technology

Plan Summary:

NA

Addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all students, including low-income students, students with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness.

Plan Summary:

North Merrick UFSD is committed to continuing to identify and serve English Language Learners. Funds will be used to hire part time staff to assist with learning loss and students with special needs. Funding will also be used to provide additional school counselor services throughout the District.

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

Plan Summary:

Funding will also be used to provide additional Guidance counsel services throughout the District. Funds will be used for summer programs and afterschool programs district wide.

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

Plan Summary:

Funds will be used for staffing enrichment programs over the summer to include music, Spanish, book clubs, art, etc. North Merrick UFSD is committed to continue enrichment and support throughout the school year with H2O homework /classwork help and our gifted and talented WINGS program. Funds will be used to staff our additional programs and provide materials for our design enrichment projects. Funds will be used to create district-wide events to support parents and families to prepare for the post-pandemic world of education and involvement in technology programs and updates.

Funds will be used for increase in staffing for academic support and summer programs district wide.

Supporting early childhood education.

Plan Summary

Funds will be used to hire a part time reading and special education teachers.

Other areas of student performance and need.

Plan Summary:

Funds will be used to pay faculty and staff to curate a hub of resources for Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions for Reading, Writing, and Math. In addition, teachers will be paid for their time to create a digital folder of interactive review resources for their grade level in math, reading and writing so that students can have access to resources throughout the summer and close the gaps. ENL teachers are also being paid for their time to create digital folders of review materials for student in K-2 and 3-6 so that they have access over the summer as well.

Funding will also be used to provide additional Guidance counseling services throughout the District. Funds will be used for summer programs and afterschool programs district wide.