

Bland County Public Schools ARP ESSER Plan
Approved May 2023

Bland County Public Schools
361 Bears Trail, Bastian, VA 24314
276-688-3361

Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' **academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs**. Bland County Public Schools was awarded **\$ 966,314.75** in ARP-ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to:

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Bland County Public Schools
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Section 2: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

ARP- ESSER III funds may be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. Bland County Public Schools will use approximately **\$443,637.00** of its ARP-ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below.

Bland County Public Schools will use ARP-ESSER III funds to purchase materials and supplies needed to maintain a healthy, clean and safe school environment.

Additionally, to support student and staff health needs, existing heating and cooling systems at Bland County Elementary School were upgraded with the installation of Bard and HVAC units to improve air quality and air circulation. These upgrades will reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards for students and staff.

Section 3: Addressing Unfinished Learning

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each LEA to use twenty percent of its formula funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. Bland County Public Schools will use approximately **\$413,656.75** of its ARP- ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning as described below.

To address the academic impact of lost instructional time, Bland County Public Schools will hire Part-Time Math Tutor and Part-Time Reading Tutor for each school: Bland County Elementary School and Bland County High School. Tutors will collaborate with teachers to provide differentiated instruction to small groups of students with the goals of closing gaps and accelerating learning. Instruction will be guided by multiple data sources, including formative and summative assessments. A Virtual/Student Support Coordinator (.25 FTE) will provide district level guidance for the tutors. Instructional resources needed for evidenced-based interventions will be purchased. Additionally, virtual instruction, which includes instruction for learning loss, will be provided for those students

who are not returning to the school building for instruction due to concerns regarding the pandemic using ARP-ESSER III funds.

Section 4: Other Uses of Funds

Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act permits school divisions to use the ARP-ESSER III funding not reserved to address unfinished learning to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways Bland County Public Schools will use approximately **\$109,021.00** of its ARP- ESSER III funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

The Virtual/Student Support Coordinator (.75 FTE for SY 2021-2022 and .5 FTE for SY 2022-2023) will be responsible for the coordination of Virtual Academy instruction and will provide other support as needed as the school system responds to various impacts of the pandemic.

Section 5: Addressing Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

Bland County Public Schools will continue to respond and support all students through necessary interventions, including academic needs and social/emotional/mental health needs. School counselors, Therapeutic Day Treatment Counselors, teachers, administrators and outside agencies as needed, will work collaboratively to provide individual student and family support as needed.

Section 6: Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP-ESSER III Plan, Bland County Public Schools conducted consultation in the following ways:

- With stakeholders, including: students, families, school and district administrators (including special education administrators), teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions – through discussions and through inviting public comment on the use of ARP funds.
- With Tribes (if applicable); civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students in the same manner and
- By providing the public the opportunity to provide input through the school board meeting public comment session and through posting the plan and inviting comments so that such input can be taken into account.

Section 7: Making the Plan Available to the Public

Bland County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- The plan is posted at: <https://www.bland.k12.va.us/>
- The plan is available in multiple languages as requested.
- The plan may be orally translated for parents. Contact Mike Grim (contact information below) to request translation; and
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA may be provided with the plan in an alternative format accessible by contacting:

Mike Grim, Supervisor of Special Services
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