

# Blanket Independent School District

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David Whisenhunt, Superintendent

## ESSER III Use of Funds Plan

### American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act

#### Introduction

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act statute requires that LEAs develop and make publicly available their plans for the use of funds after having engaged in meaningful consultation with stakeholders. This plan must be reviewed and revised every six months. A summary of Blanket ISD's plans for ESSER III funding, aligned to four required components, is below.

#### Public Comment & Stakeholder Input

This plan was developed in consultation with stakeholders after soliciting public comment via public board meetings, Site Based Decision Making committee meeting for input, staff survey, web site survey, student group input from student clubs and student council groups that include science club, FFA, FCCLA & NHS.

#### Effective Date & Publication of Plan

The plan was written on July 12, 2021 and posted to the LEA website <https://www.blanketisd.net/COVID-19-Information>. Should revisions to the plan become necessary, the plan will be updated and a revised version posted on the website.

#### Required Components of Use of Funds Plan

Statute requires that LEAs describe its use of funds according to four components:

1. Prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with the latest CDC guidance on reopening schools in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. (LEAs are not required to use ESSER III funds for this activity.)
2. How LEA will use funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year
3. How LEA will spend its remaining funds to meet the intent and purpose of ESSER III
4. How LEA will ensure the interventions address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by COVID19, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

## *Plan for Funding to Address Impact on Learning*

Statute requires a minimum of 20% of ESSER III funding to be directed toward activities that address learning loss. This requirement is separated among two components:

- **Component #2:** Evidence-based interventions; and
- **Component #4:** Interventions that ensure the social, emotional, mental health needs of students are met

Total Entitlement: \$ 341,593	20% of Entitlement: \$ 68,318.60
Initial 2/3 Entitlement: \$ 227,729	Final 1/3 Entitlement: \$ 113,864
Of the Initial \$ 227,729 there will be \$ 220,897 toward Learning Loss:	

### ***Component #2: Evidence-based Interventions***

Blanket ISD will address learning loss through the following activities:

- Salary to add a new Middle School Teacher to address the learning loss due to covid. Evidence based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.
- Salary for two additional MS & HS Aides to support students with gaps suffered from learning due to covid.
- Purchase supplemental resources to be used during summer learning, after school tutorials and Saturday School programs.

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years:

- 2021-2022 school year
- 2022-2023 school year
- 2023-2024 school year (as carryover)

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Activities aligned with ESEA</li> <li>● Activities aligned with IDEA</li> <li>● Activities aligned with Adult Education &amp; Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)</li> <li>● Activities aligned with Perkins CTE</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Purchase educational technology to aid educational interaction (students/teachers)</li> <li>● Plan/implement summer learning &amp; after-school programs</li> <li>● Address learning loss (assessments; comprehensive needs of students; PFE support; tracking remote attendance/engagement)</li> </ul> |
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## ***Component #4: Interventions Addressing Academic, Social, Emotional Needs of Students***

Blanket ISD will provide interventions responding academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, in particular underserved groups\*, through the following activities:

- Purchase of SEL/Character curriculum and training for all staff.
- To provide Mental health services/support to all students with emphasis on those most impacted by the pandemic as listed in the “Underserved groups”.

*\*Underserved groups: low-income students; students of color; English learners; students with disabilities; students experiencing homelessness; children in foster care; migratory students*

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years:

- 2021-2022 school year
- 2022-2023 school year
- 2023-2024 school year (as carryover)

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

- Address student needs: low-income, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth
- Purchase educational technology to aid educational interaction (students/teachers)
- Provide mental health services and supports (incl. implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools & hiring counselors)
- Address learning loss (assessments; comprehensive needs of students; PFE support; tracking remote attendance/engagement)

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## *Plan for Other Needs*

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Statute requires that the remaining funds ( $\leq 80\%$  of ESSER III entitlement) be spent on other needs aligned with the intent and purpose of ESSER III. This requirement is separated among two components:

- **Component #1:** Prevention and Mitigation Strategies (optional use of ESSER III); and
- **Component #3:** Remaining use of ESSER funds aligned to safely reopening and sustaining the safe operation of schools and addressing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students

Total Entitlement: \$ 341,593	80% of Entitlement: \$ 273,274
Initial 2/3 Entitlement: \$ 227,729	80% of Entitlement: \$ 182,183
Blanket ISD will use local funds source for Components 1 and 3.	

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### ***Component #1: Prevention and Mitigation Strategies***

Blanket ISD will provide prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with CDC guidance (to the greatest extent possible) on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning.

Blanket ISD is supporting these strategies through other (local) funding sources.

- Provide face coverings for anyone who desires to use them
- Provide smaller class settings in order to distance.
- Change filters to A/C and Heat units often.
- Water filling stations controlled by monitor staff.

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years:

- 2021-2022 school year
- 2022-2023 school year
- 2023-2024 school year (as carryover)

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

- Strategies/Protocols aligned to CDC guidance (reopening/operating)
- Coordinating to prevent, prepare for, respond to COVID19
- PD: sanitizing and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean
- Develop & implement procedures and systems to improve preparedness & response efforts of LEAs

### ***Component #3: Any Remaining Use of Funds or BISD Local Funds***

Blanket ISD will use any remaining funds or BISD Local Funds to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students. The following activities are planned:

- Additional eating spaces to maintain distance
- If needed to add another bus to routes or activities in order to reduce the number of students per bus ride.
- Provide extra pay stipends to staff to encourage staff to continue to work and retain highly qualified staff.

The LEA has budgeted to implement these activities during the following years:

- 2021-2022 school year
- 2022-2023 school year
- 2023-2024 school year

Some allowable uses of funds aligned to this component include –

- Repairing & improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus/exposure to health hazards
- Improving indoor air quality
- Develop & implement procedures and systems to improve preparedness & response efforts of LEAs
- Plan/implement activities during long-term closures, (meals to eligible students; provide technology for online learning; guidance for IDEA requirements; ensure other ed. services continue per federal, state, local requirements)
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of services, including continuing to employ existing or hiring new LEA and school staff