

Golf School District 67

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ESSER III) Use of Funds

This document is the planned expenditure of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III (ESSER III) grant funds allocated to Golf Elementary School District 67

Overview of Grant Award

The district received \$475,501 from the federal government, of which 20% must be allocated to addressing learning loss resulting from interruptions to instruction during the Spring of 2020 and the entirety of the 2020-2021 School Year. These funds have been used for mitigation measures, technology, extra staff and support to ensure a safe and productive return to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Portions of funds must be used to address learning loss, mental health, and ongoing impact of the pandemic. Districts must obligate funds by September 30, 2024.

<u>Overall Plan</u>

District 67 is engaging in strategic planning this school year, where it will seek information from various stakeholders regarding priorities of the district and use of funds to support these efforts. Board meetings held in July and August allowed for public comment, which was received regarding the safe return to school for all students. Meetings in the fall and winter with the Strategic Planning committee have focused on district priorities (see letter <u>here</u> for community survey) and creating a new mission for the district. A draft plan will be presented to the Board of Education at the February 2022 meeting. The district will ensure that any student significantly impacted by the pandemic will have access to the academic and social-emotional supports needed to address gaps in learning and skill acquisition. All students in the district will have access to programs provided under the ESSER III Grant.

The district will allocate ESSER III funds in the areas identified as primary grant objectives by the State of Illinois. All funds will be expended to address learning loss, after school programs, and our Summer Leap program. This includes professional development to address the needs of our EL and other diverse learners, as well as mental health needs of students.

Learning Loss

In order to address learning loss, the district has increased FTE for interventionists, paraprofessionals and permanent substitutes to support the academic and social emotional skill development of students negatively impacted by the pandemic. These individuals are able to support students with evidenced based intervention programs to address individual needs of students who demonstrate learning and social emotional learning gaps.

Summer Leap:

The Summer Leap program is offered to students who demonstrate learning loss and achievement gaps throughout the year. It provides programming for students in grades K-7 and utilizes research-based interventions to address these gaps. Funds are used for FTE, materials, and administrative costs. Data will be collected and analyzed after the sessions to help plan for the following year for participating students.

After-School Programs:

The district recognizes that some students require extra support to fully understand the curriculum. GMS has an after school Homework Hub to help students with comprehension and executive functioning skills that may be lacking.