

West Central C.U.S.D. #235

ESSER III Spending Plan

Under the American Rescue Plan (ARP), which became law in March 2021, school districts around the country will receive funding to address the impact of COVID-19 on students' academic, social, emotional and mental health needs. This funding is known as "ESSER III."

"ESSER" is short for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief. ESSER III receives its numerical designation from the fact that the ARP ESSER Fund is the third set of COVID-related federal relief grants for schools that Congress has passed since the pandemic began.

ESSER I and ESSER II were established respectively by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in March 2020 and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act in December 2020.

How much money will ESSER III provide?

ESSER III will provide nearly \$122 billion to state educational agencies and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students.

West Central C.U.S.D. #235 is expected to receive \$1,267,042 in ESSER III funds.

How will West Central C.U.S.D. #235 use its ESSER III funds?

This spending plan focuses on two areas to ensure the safety of our students and staff as well as address learning loss that may have occurred during the COVID-19 global pandemic. Our plan recognizes that no less than 20% of all ESSER III funds (\$253,408) must be used to address learning loss. The costs listed below are estimates only. In order to support individual student success, teachers and administrators will analyze data to determine the supports needed for each student.

As presented to the West Central C.U.S.D. #235 Board of Education on November 17, 2021, the District plans to use its ESSER III grant money in two major areas, pending approval from the Illinois State Board of Education:

1. Academics and Improvement of Instruction

- **Supplemental Academic Support:** staff and instructional materials to implement summer school and an after-school program during the 21-22, 22-23, and 23-24 school years, \$40,000
- **Curricular Materials:** instructional materials to support the ongoing implementation of our core curriculum and academic intervention services \$70,000
- **Summer Learning and Enrichment:** summer workbooks to enrich learning and to prevent summer learning loss during Summer 2022, \$3,500
- **Extended School Year Program for Special Education:** tuition, \$8,658

- **Technology:** hot spots, chromebooks, and Prowise interactive boards to provide greater access to assessments, curriculum and instruction \$131,250

2. Capital Improvements:

- Repair and upgrade of the HVAC system at West Central Elementary, West Central Middle School, and West Central High School to improve air quality, \$713,634
- Replacement of windows at West Central Elementary and West Central High School to improve air quality, \$300,000

ESSER III Stakeholder Consultation

West Central posted the Use of Funds Plan on the District Website for stakeholder viewing and provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide feedback via a dedicated email account. The Board of Education provides an opportunity at each monthly meeting for stakeholders to attend and comment on the planned use of funds.