



Mark Mitchell
Superintendent

Reed-Custer Administration Center
255 Comet Drive
Braidwood, IL 60408

815-458-2307

ARP-ESSER III Funds Plan

Overview: Under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III ARP Fund (ESSER III), the Department awards grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation. LEAs must provide services to students and teachers in public schools as required under the American Rescue Plan Act.

Reed-Custer CUSD 255 Allotment: The Reed-Custer School District has received an ESSER III allotment from the Illinois State Board of Education of \$1,292,064. The funds may be utilized through September 30, 2024.

Required Use of Funds: ARP-ESSER III funds must be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, in line with the most recent CDC guidance, in order to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning. No less than 20 percent of the Reed-Custer School District's total allocation of ARP ESSER funds will be used to address the academic impact of lost instructional time during the pandemic on the following items:

- Provide interventions for K-12 students who have experienced learning loss over the past year. This will be done by employing an elementary ELL learning loss interventionist, a high school learning loss and credit recovery interventionist, an elementary math and reading learning loss interventionist, a middle school math learning loss interventionist, and two elementary reading support specialists. The total cost (salary and benefits) recorded in the grant budget is \$593,684.
- Replace District servers that allow students to login to the network, utilize the internet, email teachers, and access online textbooks and other digital instructional resources during the normal school year and during summer and after school programs. The total cost for this equipment replacement is \$90,291 (for 4 total servers). These grant funds will purchase approximately 2 of these servers with District funds used to complete the upgrade. These servers are housed at Reed-Custer High School, but serve the entire K-12 District. The partial project cost recorded in the grant budget is \$45,327.
- Provide summer learning, summer enrichment, and after-school program support as needed. The partial cost (salary and benefits) recorded in the grant budget is \$1,553.

ARP-ESSER III funds may also be used to repair and upgrade projects to improve air quality in school buildings. The Reed-Custer School District will use the remaining portion of these funds on the following projects:

- Update and replace the original HVAC units at Reed-Custer Middle School to improve the ventilation and air quality within the building. The partial cost of this project recorded in the grant budget is \$651,500.

Our mission is to make a difference in students' lives through excellence in education.