

ARP-ESSER III



PLAN FOR THE SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

In March 2021, the United States Congress passed and President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed into law the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. The Act funds Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund (ESSER) III. Its purpose is to provide funding for public school units across the nation to prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19 with emphasis for use of funds to address learning loss through evidence based interventions that respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs; prepare schools for reopening; and testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings. ARP-ESSER III appropriates over \$120 billion to the states to safely reopen and sustain safe operation of schools in light of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The Beaufort County Schools (BCS) applied and was approved for funding under ARP-ESSER III in the amount of \$17,078,912.00.

Per the application, BCS proposes to expend funds, once received, as follows under the Act in the following approved areas of use:

Addressing Learning Loss (Excluding Summer Programs)	\$9,707,000.00
Facilities Repairs/Improvements to Minimize Virus Transmission	\$486,000.00

Improve Air Quality	\$316,000.00
Coordination of Preparedness and Response	\$486,000.00
Addressing Unique Needs of Special Populations	\$243,000.00
Improving Preparedness and Response	\$48,000.00
Training to Minimize Virus Transmission	\$49,000.00
Supplies to Sanitize and Clean	\$486,000.00
Long-Term Closure Activities	\$340,000.00
Education Technology	\$2,669,000.00
Mental Health Services	\$292,000.00
Summer Learning	\$1,407,000.00
Other ESSA Eligible Activities (<i>Including Indirect Costs</i>)	\$549,912.00

The Beaufort County Schools plans to return to full day, five day per week, in person, face to face instruction for the 2021-2022 school year beginning the first day of school. As of this time, no virtual option will be offered. A full continuum of services will be provided as prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic including meals and transportation. The plan to return is based on feedback that was received from stakeholders, the recommendation of the Superintendent, and with approval of the Board of Education.

The public was invited and encouraged to share comments with regards to the plan of the school system to fully reopen to in person instruction and received comments from stakeholders regarding our plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services between April 28th, 2021 and June 30th, 2021.

BCS will continue to follow all local, state, and federal directives with regards to the safe and orderly operation of schools in light of the COVID-19 global pandemic, including the latest updates from the NC Public Health Strong Schools Toolkit and any Executive Orders issued by the Governor of North Carolina.

In accordance with federal law, this information shall remain posted on our website www.beaufort.k12.nc.us through the end of ARP-ESSER III funding availability on September 30th, 2024.

Today is July 1st, 2021.