

LEA ARP ESSER Plan: "A Plan for the LEA's Use of ARP ESSER Funds"

Please submit in both Excel and PDF form to [ESSER@doe.nh.gov](mailto:ESSER@doe.nh.gov) by 2/23/2022.

The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief ("ARP ESSER") Fund, authorized under the American Rescue Plan ("ARP") Act of 2021, provides New Hampshire over \$350 million to support schools in safely reopening and sustaining safe operations of schools while meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students resulting from the coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19") pandemic.

This mandatory template is intended to collect all federally required information from an LEA in a convenient format and to assist LEAs in meeting the federal requirement that, an LEA shall publish an LEA ARP ESSER Plan, which is often called a "school district use of funds plan." See the Department of Education's most current guidance posted here: <https://omb.report/ocr/202201-1810-002/doc/117519100>.

For further context, please reference ARPA (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>) or the Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER in which the U.S. Department of Education established these requirements (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>).

I. General Information

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1) School District / Charter School Name:                | <input type="text" value="Polaris Charter School"/>                  | → Cell C18 Must be Input for Formulas to Populate Correctly |
| 2) District ID Number:                                   | <input type="text" value="735"/>                                     | → Autopopulates upon Selection                              |
| 3) SAU Number:   | <input type="text"/>   | → Autopopulates upon Selection (if applicable)              |
| 4) Date of Publication:                                  | <input type="text" value="8/19/2021"/>                               |   |
| 5) Approver Name -<br>(Superintendent / Head of School): | <input type="text" value="Jennifer Murdock-Smith"/>                  |   |
| 6) Email & Telephone:                                    | <input type="text" value="j.murdocksmith@polarischarterschool.org"/> |   |

## II. Transparency and Accessibility

- 1) This plan for the LEA's Use of ARP ESSER funds was published and made publicly available online at the following specific web address:

**Yes - Description Required**

*Description:*

[www.polarisarterschool.org](http://www.polarisarterschool.org)

- 2) The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please choose one):

**Yes - Description Required**

*Description:*

There is a link on our website and the plan can be downloaded as a pdf.

- 3) The plan, to the extent practicable, is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, orally translated (please choose one):

**Yes - Description Required**

*Description:*

It is in English but if translation was requested we would make arrangements.

- 4) The plan, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, is provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent (please choose one):

**Yes - Description Required**

*Description:*

It would be if we received a request but as of this time, no requests for alternative formats have been received.

### III. Stakeholder Engagement

#### Best Practices in Implementing ARP ESSER LEA Use of Funds Plan

- 1) How the LEA provided the public the opportunity to provide input in the development of the LEA's plan for the use of ARP ESSER funds:

**Yes - Description Required**

**Description:**

We sent out a survey to stakeholders.

- 2) How the LEA took public input into account regarding the development of the LEA's plan for the use of ARP ESSER funds (please choose one):

**Yes - Description Required**

**Description:**

We used feedback from the survey to help develop our plan.

- 3) How the LEA engaged in meaningful consultation with specific stakeholders, including, but not limited to:  
a. Students (please choose one):

**Somewhat - Description Required**

**1) Description:**

*The plan was due in the summer when students were not in school.*

*i) Number of total responses: N/A*

*ii) Uses consulted on: N/A*

*iii) Description of feedback received: The plan was due in the summer when students were not in school. Upcoming plan versions will include student feedback as updates are incorporated.*

*Please indicate how consultation was:*

**2) Inclusive:** N/A

**3) Widely advertised and available:** N/A

**4) Ongoing:** N/A

- b. Families (please choose one):

**Yes - Description Required**

**1) Description:**

*An ESSER Allocation Survey was sent out August 13, 2021*

*i) Number of total responses: 37*

*ii) Uses consulted on: Academic Needs, Social/Emotional Needs, Mental Health Needs and Facility Needs.*

*iii) Description of feedback received: Parents viewed all of these as a priority.*

*Please indicate how consultation was:*

**2) Inclusive:** The survey was sent to all families.

**3) Widely advertised and available:** It was directly emailed as well as posted on our website.

**4) Ongoing:** An informal Coffee with the Director was held in the Fall. The six parents that attended expressed the need to rebuild community/relationships with other families. This has been lost due to COVID.

- c. School and district administrators, including special education administrators (please choose one):

**Yes - Description Required**

**1) Description:**

*Being a small Charter School, we do not have this hierarchy.*

*i) Number of total responses: N/A*

*ii) Uses consulted on: N/A*

*iii) Description of feedback received: N/A*

*Please indicate how consultation was:*

**2) Inclusive:** N/A

**3) Widely advertised and available:** N/A

**4) Ongoing:** N/A

d. Teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions (please choose one):

**Yes - Description Required**

**1) Description:**

*The survey link was available to the Polaris Community and public.*

*i) Number of total responses: 7*

*ii) Uses consulted on: Academic Needs, Social/Emotional Needs, Mental Health Needs and Facility Needs.*

*iii) Description of feedback received: All were viewed as priorities.*

*Please indicate how consultation was:*

**2) Inclusive: Publically available.**

**3) Widely advertised and available: Posted to our website.**

**4) Ongoing: We have weekly staff meetings to discuss ongoing needs.**

e. Tribes, if applicable (please choose one):

**No**

**1) Description:**

*N/A*

*i) Number of total responses:*

*ii) Uses consulted on:*

*iii) Description of feedback received:*

*Please indicate how consultation was:*

**2) Inclusive:**

**3) Widely advertised and available:**

**4) Ongoing:**

f. Civil rights organizations, including disability rights organizations (please check one):

**No**

**1) Description:**

*N/A*

*i) Number of total responses: N/A*

*ii) Uses consulted on: N/A*

*iii) Description of feedback received: N/A*

*Please indicate how consultation was:*

**2) Inclusive: N/A**

**3) Widely advertised and available: N/A**

**4) Ongoing: N/A**

g. Stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students (please choose one):

**Somewhat - Description Required**

**1) Description:**

*We do not currently have any students that are homeless, etc. Special Education student services are provided by their home school district and they had the opportunity to complete the survey.*

*i) Number of total responses: 1*

*ii) Uses consulted on: Academic Needs, Social/Emotional Needs, Mental Health Needs and Facility Needs.*

*iii) Description of feedback received:*

*We do not currently have any students that are homeless, etc. Special Education student services are provided by their home school district and they had the opportunity to complete the survey.*

Please indicate how consultation was:

2) Inclusive: It was available to the public on our website

3) Widely advertised and available: It was available to the public on our website.

4) Ongoing: We held a parent information night on May 11th to engage in discussion of school needs.

h. Community-based organizations, including partnerships to promote access to before and after-school programming (please choose one):

Somewhat - Description Required

1) Description:

*We do not have before or after school programs. The survey was publicly available.*

*i) Number of total responses: 0*

*ii) Uses consulted on: N/A*

*iii) Description of feedback received: N/A*

Please indicate how consultation was:

2) Inclusive: It was available to the public on our website.

3) Widely advertised and available: It was available to the public on our website.

4) Ongoing: N/A since we do not have before or after school programs. We are a small school of 8 classrooms.

i. Early childhood education providers and families, including partnerships to ensure access to and continuity of care for families with children of different ages, particularly as they transition to school (please check one):

No

1) Description:

*This does not apply to us.*

*i) Number of total responses: N/A*

*ii) Uses consulted on: N/A*

*iii) Description of feedback received: N/A*

Please indicate how consultation was:

2) Inclusive: N/A

3) Widely advertised and available: N/A

4) Ongoing: N/A

#### IV. Supporting the Continuous and Safe Operation of In-Person Learning

- 1) The extent to which and how LEA ARP ESSER funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning:

*Note: Federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting, but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.*

**Description During SY 2021-2022:**

At this time, I am not sure if ARP ESSER funds will be use for prevention and mitigation strategies in this school year. We are still using ESSER II funds for this.

V. Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time (At least 20 percent of an LEA's Allocation)

- 1) How the LEA will identify individual student learning loss, including among students most likely to have experienced the impact of lost instructional time on student learning, such as:
- a. Students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures;
  - b. Students who have missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years; and
  - c. Students most at-risk of dropping out of school.

**Description During SY 2021-2022:**

We will use attendance information as well as student data from Dreambox, Lexia and Fountas and Pinnell to identify students experiencing learning loss.

- 2) How the LEA will use the funds it reserves to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through:

**Description During SY 2021-2022:**

This fiscal year we started a Title I program and are also working with the DOE Math Consultant who may advise procurement of additional services and/or materials.

**Description During SY 2022-2023:**

We will be purchasing workbooks that will go along with our Bridges Math Curriculum.

**Description During SY 2023-2024:**

Likely, with continue with math consultant and/or math tutoring to continue working with children who still require assistance.

- 3) How the LEA will use the funds it reserves to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through:
- a. Individualized tutoring, including providing stipends to teachers for intensive, supplemental tutoring (please choose one):

**Yes - Description Required**

**Description:**

Unsure at this time. Still researching options.

- b. Teacher-directed professional development, in which teachers choose the professional development opportunities best suited to their career pathway and current learner needs (please choose one):

**- Please Select -**

**Description:**

Yes - Description Required (not working in dropdown). Several teachers have requested professional development opportunities they would like to work on during the summer months during the SY2022-2023. Additionally, current staff members have requested additional training for our Bridges Math program and we intend to schedule that this coming summer as well.

- 4) How the LEA will produce evidence of the effectiveness of evidence-based learning loss interventions employed:

**Description:**

NH State Assesment, Lexia and Dreambox. Teacher Observation and reporting. Formative and Summative assesments.

**VI. Addressing Learner and Community Needs (Up to 80 percent of an LEA's Allocation)**

- 1) After accounting for the funds reserved under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act, how the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act (See Appendix A):

**Description During SY 2021-2022:**

Researching options via OSEW - Office of Social and Emotional wellness to address behavior issues likely resulting from remote learning and reentry back into school life as it is now.

**Description During SY 2022-2023:**

Discussing options for hiring a part time guidance counselor or behavior consultant.

**Description During SY 2023-2024:**

Continue arrangement with an employed guidance and / behavior consultant to reinforce skills attained in SY 2022-SY 2023.

- 2) After accounting for the funds reserved under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act, how the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act (See Appendix A):

- a. Providing individualized instruction:

During SY 2021-2022 (select one): **Yes - Description Required**

During SY 2022-2023 (select one): **Yes - Description Required**

During SY 2023-2024 (select one): **Yes - Description Required**

**Description of all SYs - 2021 to 2024:**

Discussing options for hiring a part time guidance counselor or behavior consultant. Continue arrangement with an employed guidance and / behavior consultant to reinforce skills attained in SY 2022-SY 2023.

- b. Addressing educator fatigue, including providing performance-based bonuses to teachers:

During SY 2021-2022 (select one): **Yes - Description Required**

During SY 2022-2023 (select one): **Yes - Description Required**

During SY 2023-2024 (select one): **Yes - Description Required**

**Description of all SYs - 2021 to 2024:**

\$8000.00 allocated on June 15th for teachers to compensate for them needing to teach during their planning time this year due to severe staff losses and predicted shortages extending to SY 2022-2023 and SY 2023-2024.

- c. Improving family engagement:

During SY 2021-2022 (select one): **Yes - Description Required**

During SY 2022-2023 (select one): **Yes - Description Required**

During SY 2023-2024 (select one): **Yes - Description Required**

**Description of all SYs - 2021 to 2024:**

Family involvement has dropped significantly due to COVID. Now that barriers to gathering have been lifted, Polaris needs to re-engage families to be involved. In SY 2021-2022, I plan to host an evening social event to bring families together. It is unknown at this time what will occur in SY 2022-2023 and SY 2023-2024.

- 3) The LEA's use of funds to address the following additional needs identified in the New Hampshire Department of Education's robust, statewide consultation with stakeholders:

- a. What amount and percentage of the LEA's total allocation will be administered under school leader discretion:

Amount: \$165k

Percentage: 100%

**Description of allocation methodology including the extent to which it reflected student need for, at minimum, Special Education, Free and Reduced-Price Lunch, and English Language Learners:**

Given the small size of our school, we plan to purchase curriculum and materials to benefit ALL of our students including the groups outlined above.



b. What amount and percentage of the LEA's total allocation will be used to support Career and Technical Education:

Amount: \$0

Percentage: 0.00%

**Description, including funds used to support learner attainment of industry-recognized credentials:**

N/A

c. The extent to which funds will be used to provide access to course access opportunities, including advanced, elective, and remedial courses provided outside of the residential public school that a learner could not otherwise access:

During SYs 2021-2024 (select one): **No**

**Description of all SYs - 2021 to 2024:**

None anticipated.

## VII. Addressing the Unique Needs of All Learners

- 1) How the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.

***Description:***

Polaris Charter School is committed to our non-discrimination policies to ensure that the interventions it implements will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students. Specifically, the academically data-driven selection process for student participation in tutoring and the self-selection and teacher nomination for additional social-emotional support for students and families align with our non-discrimination policies.

## VIII. Addressing Unique Renovation, Air Quality and/or Construction Needs

- 1) If the LEA plans to use or has used any portion of ARP ESSER funds for construction projects, describe those projects below. Each project should be addressed separately. If needed, LEAs may submit additional supporting information. Please insert "N/A" if this category is not applicable to your plan. Please also note that these projects are subject to the NHDOE's prior conceptual and final approval:

[ESSER Funded Construction.](#)

***Description:***

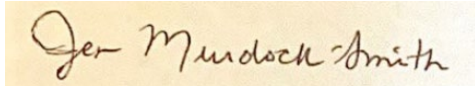
We plan to use a portion of funds to address air quality. This may include exterior door and window replacement and industrial dehumidifying equipment.



**X. Authorization**

*\*Please print and sign this page. Return a signed version with your completed packet to :*

[ESSER@doe.nh.gov](mailto:ESSER@doe.nh.gov)



7-Mar-22

**Approver Signature - Superintendent / Head of School**

**Date**

*Jennifer Murdock-Smith*

**Printed Name - Superintendent / Head of School**

**Appendix A. ARPA Statutory Excerpt**

*(e) USES OF FUNDS.—A local educational agency that receives funds under this section—*

*(1) shall reserve not less than 20 percent of such funds to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the student subgroups described in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(B)(xi)), students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care; and*

*(2) shall use the remaining funds for any of the following:*

*(A) Any activity authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.*

*(B) Any activity authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.*

*(C) Any activity authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.*

*(D) Any activity authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.*

*(E) Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.*

*(F) Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.*

*(G) Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.*

*(H) Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.*

*(I) Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.*

*(J) Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students, providing technology for online learning to all students, providing guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.*

*(K) Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.*

*(L) Providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence-based full-service community schools.*

*(M) Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.*

*(N) Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including by—*

*(i) administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction;*

*(ii) implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students;*

*(iii) providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment; and*

*(iv) tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.*

*(O) School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.*

*(P) Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.*

*(Q) Developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.*

*(R) Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.*

## Appendix B. Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER Excerpt

### Appendix B. Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER Excerpt

#### *(2) LEA ARP ESSER Plan.*

*(a) Each LEA that receives ARP ESSER funds must submit to the SEA, in such manner and within a reasonable timeline as determined by the SEA, a plan that contains any information reasonably required by the SEA. The plan, and any revisions to the plan submitted consistent with procedures established by the SEA, must describe—*

*(i) The extent to which and how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;*

*(ii) How the LEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs;*

*(iii) How the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e) of the ARP Act; and*

*(iv) How the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to 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 the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students.*

*(b) In developing its ARP ESSER plan, an LEA must—*

*(i) Engage in meaningful consultation—*

*(A) With stakeholders, including: Students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions; and*

*(B) To the extent present in or served by the LEA: Tribes; civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students; and*

*(ii) Provide the public the opportunity to provide input and take such input into account.*

*(c) An LEA's ARP ESSER plan must be—*

*(i) In an understandable and uniform format;*

*(ii) To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be orally translated for such parent;*

*(iii) Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent; and*

*(iv) Be made publicly available on the LEA's website.*