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 by 1/13/2023.

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, 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/icr/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:	<u>Portsmouth</u>	→ Cell C18 Must be Input for Formulas to Populate Correct
2) District ID Number:	449	→ Autopopulates upon Selection
3) SAU Number:	<u>52</u>	→ Autopopulates upon Selection
4) Date of Publication:	1/11/2023	
5) Approver Name - (Superintendent / Head of School):	Zachary McLaughlin, Superintendent of Schools	
6) Email & Telephone:	zmclaughlin@sau52.org (603) 431-5080	

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:

This plan has been published for public information on the Portsmouth School Department website under District Information with the name ESSER Use of Funds Plan Jan 2023. The site can be found at https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/school

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

Yes - Description Required

Description:

This plan is provided in a standardized format provided by the New Hampshire Department of Education.

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:

This plan is, as much as practicable, written in plain language. Upon request, the Portsmouth School Department will make all practicable efforts to provide translation of the content.

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:

Upon request, the Portsmouth School Department will make all practicable efforts to provide alternative formatting of the content of this plan.

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:

ESSER funding has been presented/discussed at multiple School Board meetings beginning in May 2021 and continuing to present. There have been surveys of the public in September 2021 and February 2022 generating over 230 responses. In February 2022 there were public forums held to review the current plan for use of funds. Those forums were in person the first night and via Zoom for accessibility the second night with more than 20 participants. Public comment and input has been invited and welcomed at each public posted Board meeting in that time.

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:

School Department administration has compiled and reviewed public input in a series of meetings. The raw data collected from public input has been combined with sythesized summary and presented multiple times in public session to the Portsmouth School Board. Individual responses and suggestions have been considered by administration and board and aggregated themes have been reviewed by all as well. The dynamic plan of the School Department is a reflection of overall deliberation, stakeholder input, and the considered needs of schools, students, and staff.

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

Yes - Description Required

1) Description:

The deliberations of the Portsmouth School Board on use of ESSER funds have included the Board's student member, who works to represent the voice of Portsmouth students. The proposed use of funds intended to address Student Wellness will be determined largely based upon the ongoing recommendations of the Student Wellness Committee which membership is Portsmouth High School students.

i) Number of total responses: 1 with School Board, 2 via surveys, multiple ongoing aggregated from Student Wellness Committee

ii) Uses consulted on: Feedback welcomed on all uses of funds, specific recommendations on Student Wellness plans

iii) Description of feedback received: Student member of the School Board has provided anecdotal commentary and aggregated questions from student government. Student Wellness Committee is expected to provide specific recommendations for activities.

Please indicate how consultation was:

- 2) Inclusive: All Portsmouth students with school email accounts were included in the invitations to participate in the public surveys. Participation in the PHS Student Wellness Committee is open to all students.
- 3) Widely advertised and available: Announcements and invitations are communicated through email with reminders through physical postings and school announcements.
- 4) Ongoing: Student member of the School Board makes regular report to the PHS student government on the work of the School Board. That student continues to share with the School Board any feedback from student government. All student input is welcomed by the Board.
- b. Families (please choose one):

Yes - Description Required

1) Description:

Families, including parents, guardians, and caregivers, have represented a significant portion of the participants and contributors of feedback and suggestions to surveys, public forums, and public comment periods. Portsmouth benefits from an engaged extended school family. Family feedback has also been received through the multiple school PTA and PTO organizations.

i) Number of total responses: 159 in survey identified as parent/guardian and many in-person commenters have as well

ii) Uses consulted on: All proposed uses of funds have been open for feedback and open suggestions have been invited

iii) Description of feedback received: Parents and family members have provided input by survey including open feedback questions and much of the public meeting and forum input has been provided by parents

Please indicate how consultation was:

- 2) Inclusive: Invitations to participate in surveys, forums, and offer comments on proposed uses of funds have been shared broadly with all parents/guardians/caregivers.
- 3) Widely advertised and available: Invitations to participate in survey and forums have been publicized through the schools and on the School Department website and have been communicated directly through ParentSquare, the current school messaging tool.
- **4) Ongoing:** The ongoing School Board conversation about priorities for use of ESSER funds is dynamic and will continue to be very public and parent/family input will continue to be welcomed at each meeting of the School Board. ESSER funds are a priority in budget development.

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

Yes - Description Required

1) Description:

The administrative team, including district and school level administrators with special education and other program directors, have worked together throughout the last two years to review feedback, consider needs, and make recommendations to the School Board on priorities for use of funds. Administrators are uniquely engaged because they are called upon to advise on implementation strategies and operational matters.

- i) Number of total responses: 5 survey responses, 16 administrators directly contributing to options and analysis efforts
- *ii) Uses consulted on:* All potential uses of funds considered by administrators in synthesizing recommendations
- *iii) Description of feedback received:* The School Department administrative team has worked together to analyze the feedback compiled from stakeholders and assess the needs throughout the school system that might be addressed through the use of ESSER funds.

Please indicate how consultation was:

- 2) Inclusive: All members of the administrative team have been involved during the last two years of work on the uses of ESSER funds.
- 3) Widely advertised and available: Communication has been standard internal by email. Additionally, the administrative team has maintained the ESSER conversation routinely on the agenda of its monthly team meetings.
- **4) Ongoing:** The administrative team will be responsible to implement final decisions on uses of funds. As such, the team continues to explore options and consider additional feedback as the dynamic plan is reviewed and revised with the School Board.
- d. Teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions (please choose one):

Yes - Description Required

1) Description:

The School Department administration maintains strong working relations with the faculty and staff. Educators and staff have been vocal participants in the ongoing public conversation related to use of ESSER funds. The Wellness Committee will continue to make recommendations for the needs to be addressed in Staff Wellness. There is a teacher representative on the School Board who serves as a liaison to maintain open dialogue between the professional staff and the School Board.

- i) Number of total responses: 91 survey responses, educators and staff have had strong representation in public sessions
- ii) Uses consulted on: All uses of funds being considered, Wellness Committee will recommend on Staff Wellness needs
- *iii)* Description of feedback received: Faculty and staff have provided input through the surveys collected and public sessions. There have been strong faculty voices in the public forums as well as at public comment. And staff messages have been carried by building administrators to the analysis efforts by the administrative team and School Board.

Please indicate how consultation was:

- 2) Inclusive: Invitations to participate and contribute have been open to all willing stakeholders. The School Department has been mindful of accessibility, has used electronic tools, and has worked to balance in-person and remote opportunities for public input.
- 3) Widely advertised and available: Communication has been standard internal by email and faculty and staff have also received updates and invitations through the ParentSquare messaging tool in many cases.
- **4) Ongoing:** The School Department is understandably extremely interested in the feedback and suggestions of its faculty and staff members. This plan is dynamic and evolving. The administration and School Board will continue to welcome input from the school community.
- e. Tribes, if applicable (please choose one):

No

1) Description:

- 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):

Yes - Description Required

1) Description:

There have been responses and feedback provided by individuals who identified as representatives of organizations concerned with civil rights and/or disability rights. The School Department will continue to explore additional input and feedback from this stakeholder group.

- i) Number of total responses: 14 survey responses
- *ii) Uses consulted on:* All uses of funds being considered and open suggestions and feedback invited
- iii) Description of feedback received: Survey responses

Please indicate how consultation was:

2) Inclusive: Invitations to participate and contribute have been open to all willing stakeholders. The School Department has been mindful of accessibility, has

used electronic tools, and has worked to balance in-person and remote opportunities for public input.

- 3) Widely advertised and available: Invitations to participate and provide feedback on uses of funds have been shared broadly with the school community and greater City community through website posting, social media sharing, and news coverage of public sessions. Ongoing School Board discussions of ESSER funds have been publicly noticed in posted agendas.
- 4) Ongoing: The School Department will continue to review and revise this plan with the School Board through public meetings and discussion and will continue to welcome public input.
- 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):

Yes - Description Required

1) Description:

There have been responses and feedback provided by individuals who identified as representing the interests of children with disabilities, English language learners, children experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.

i) Number of total responses: 15 survey responses

ii) Uses consulted on: All uses of funds being considered and open suggestions and feedback invited

iii) Description of feedback received: Survey responses

Please indicate how consultation was:

- 2) Inclusive: Invitations to participate and contribute have been open to all willing stakeholders. The School Department has been mindful of accessibility, has used electronic tools, and has worked to balance in-person and remote opportunities for public input.
- 3) Widely advertised and available: Invitations to participate and provide feedback on uses of funds have been shared broadly with the school community and greater City community through website posting, social media sharing, and news coverage of public sessions. Ongoing School Board discussions of ESSER funds have been publicly noticed in posted agendas.
- 4) Ongoing: The School Department will continue to review and revise this plan with the School Board through public meetings and discussion and will continue to welcome public input. The School Department will continue to explore opportunities to gather additional feedback and input from this stakeholder group.
- h. Community-based organizations, including partnerships to promote access to before and after-school programming (please choose one):

Yes - Description Required

1) Description:

There have been responses and feedback provided by individuals who identified as representing community-based organizations, including specifically before and after school programming.

i) Number of total responses: 4 survey responses

ii) Uses consulted on: All uses of funds being considered and open suggestions and feedback invited

iii) Description of feedback received: Survey responses

Please indicate how consultation was:

- 2) Inclusive: Invitations to participate and contribute have been open to all willing stakeholders. The School Department has been mindful of accessibility, has used electronic tools, and has worked to balance in-person and remote opportunities for public input.
- 3) Widely advertised and available: Invitations to participate and provide feedback on uses of funds have been shared broadly with the school community and greater City community through website posting, social media sharing, and news coverage of public sessions. Ongoing School Board discussions of ESSER funds have been publicly noticed in posted agendas.
- 4) Ongoing: The School Department will continue to review and revise this plan with the School Board through public meetings and discussion and will continue to welcome public input.
- 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):

Yes - Description Required

1) Description:

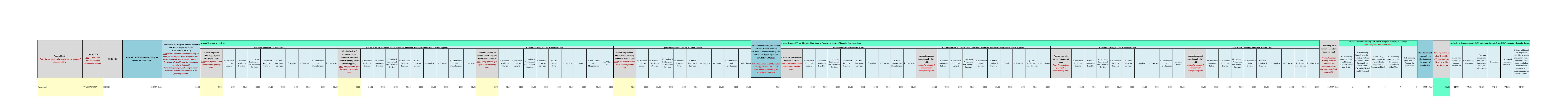
There have been responses and feedback provided by individuals who identified as representing early childhood education. The School Department participates regularly with a group of regional preschool providers and will continue to solicit feedback through that channel as well.

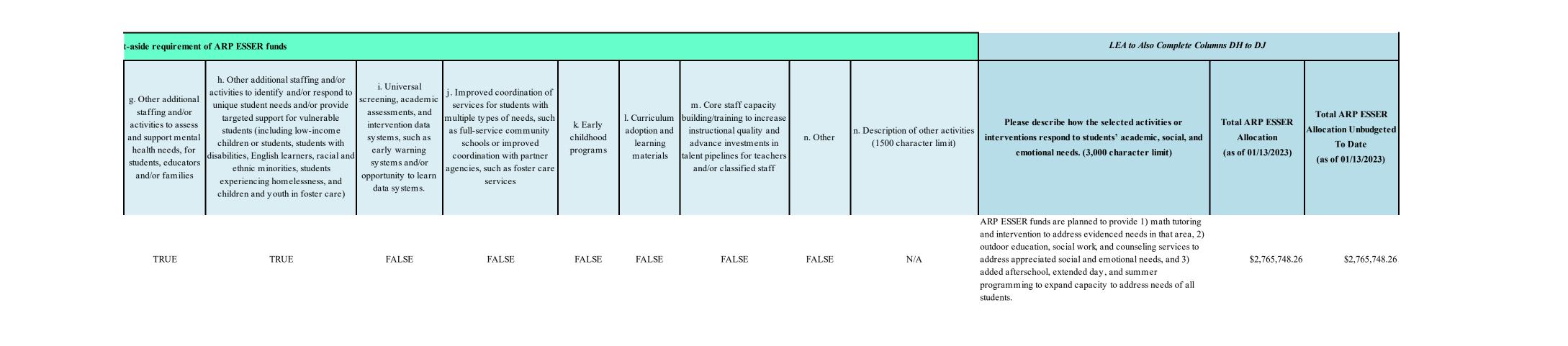
i) Number of total responses: 4 survey responses

ii) Uses consulted on: All uses of funds being considered and open suggestions and feedback invited *iii) Description of feedback received:* Survey responses and aggregated commentary from regional meetings

Please indicate how consultation was:

- 2) Inclusive: Invitations to participate and contribute have been open to all willing stakeholders. The School Department has been mindful of accessibility, has used electronic tools, and has worked to balance in-person and remote opportunities for public input.
- 3) Widely advertised and available: Invitations to participate and provide feedback on uses of funds have been shared broadly with the school community and greater City community through website posting, social media sharing, and news coverage of public sessions. Ongoing School Board discussions of ESSER funds have been publicly noticed in posted agendas.
- 4) Ongoing: The School Department will continue to review and revise this plan with the School Board through public meetings and discussion and will continue to welcome public input.





X. Authorization

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

ESSER@doe.nh.gov

11-Jan-23

Approver Signature - Superintendent / Head of School

Date

Zachary McLaughlin, Superintendent of Schools

Printed Name - Superintendent / Head of School