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HALF HOLLOW HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
American Rescue Plan (ARP) / Elementary & Secondary  
School Emergency Relief (ESSER)  
Use of Funding Plan – July 1, 2021

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On March 11, 2021, the President signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP). ARP makes available \$122.8 billion nationally in a third round of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. New York State has been allocated nearly \$9 billion under the ARP Act's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. The ARP Act requires that a minimum of \$8.09 billion (90%) be allocated to Local Education Agencies (LEAs), including charter schools and Special Act School Districts that are LEAs. Pursuant to the terms of the ARP Act, LEA allocations have been calculated using the relative shares of grants awarded under Title I, Part A of the ESEA for the most recent federal fiscal year (2020).

Under section 2001(d)(2) of ARP Act of 2021, each State Educational Agency (SEA) must make ARP-ESSER allocations to LEAs in an expedited and timely manner and, to the extent practicable, not later than 60 days after the SEA receives its ARP-ESSER funds. The first portion of ARP-ESSER Funds was awarded to states on March 24, 2021, and 60 days from that day is May 24, 2021. The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has taken the position that an SEA makes allocations when it authorizes the LEA to begin to obligate funds in accordance with its needs. To enable New York State's LEAs to begin to obligate ARP-ESSER funds by USDE's May 24, 2021 deadline, the application for LEA 90% base ARP-ESSER allocations will be administered by NYSED as a two-part application process:

1. **ARP-ESSER Application – Part 1:** The first step is for each LEA to submit signed assurances to NYSED by no later than May 24, 2021. Upon receipt of signed LEA assurances, NYSED will provide an email notice to the LEA of substantially approvable application status. Upon receipt of such notice, LEAs may begin obligating their allocation of 90% base ARP-ESSER funds.
2. **ARP-ESSER Application – Part 2:** The second step will be the submission of a full application and budget by the LEA. NYSED will issue a Grant Award Notice (GAN) to the LEA after the LEA's application is fully reviewed and approved by NYSED. Part 2 will address several of the plan-related assurances an LEA must provide in Part 1 of the application process.

The ARP Act requires LEAs to reserve at least 20% of their 90% ARP-ESSER allocation 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 economically disadvantaged students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.

On April 21, 2021, USDE issued Interim Final Requirements (IFR) (found here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/04/22/2021-08359/american-rescue-plan-act-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund>) that include examples of ways in which an LEA may use its ARP-ESSER funds for a wide variety of activities related to educating students during the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and educators. USDE's IFR also references the ARP statutory requirement that an LEA receiving ARP ESSER funds must reserve at least 20 percent of the funds to measure and address the academic impact of lost instructional time on all students through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, including but not limited to interventions implemented through summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. Moreover, USDE's IFR states that the LEA must also ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on groups of students disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Utilizing all of these resources, the Half Hollow Hills School District completed the first part of its application – the ARP-ESSER Assurances – prior to the May 24, 2021 deadline. Next, it met its obligation to obtain stakeholder input into its planned use of the funds by hosting a public hearing on June 14, 2021. A video of that public hearing is available at this link (<https://livestream.com/accounts/8265235/events/9717503>), and the presentation document itself is available at the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k3zg2qrjoTvaHQEPH9o96231bjwdh52b/view>). After taking into consideration stakeholder input, the Board of Education and Central Office Administration are proud to present the following plan for the use of the ARP / ESSER funds.

**Grant objective:** Maximize in-person instruction time

**Plan:**

- Maintain current staffing levels including newly hired elementary teachers who were brought on-board in 2020-2021 in response to the fully remote, hybrid and in-person instructional models, retain these employees for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. Doing so will support lower class sizes overall K to 12 wherever possible and social distancing in classrooms.

**School years:**

- 2021-2022
- 2022-2023

**Expected Grant funding commitment:**

- \$400,000 in 2021-2022
  - \$400,000 in 2022-2023
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**Grant objective:** Offer evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health and academic needs

**Plan:**

- Supervision of job coaches to work with special education students during the summer to secure temporary and/or permanent employment.
- Summer work with families of special education students to identify and place students in more restrictive environments due to learning loss as a result of COVID.
- Offer supplemental credit recovery classes during the summer to provide students with an opportunity to successfully complete coursework.
- Hire a new guidance counselor for the elementary buildings

**School years:**

- Summer 2021, Summer 2022, Summer 2023 (job coach, special education placements and credit recovery)
- 2021-2022, 2022-2023 (guidance counselor)

**Expected Grant funding commitment:**

- \$199,000 in 2021-2022
- \$134,000 in 2022-2023
- \$19,000 in 2023-2024

**Grant objective:** Offer evidence-based summer, after school and other extended learning and enrichment programs

**Plan:**

- Provide intramural and fine arts modules to the existing four-week summer school program.
- Offer supplemental college essay writing workshops during the summer to provide students with an opportunity to successfully bridge the gap between high school and college.

**School years:**

- Summer 2021
- Summer 2022
- Summer 2023

**Expected Grant funding commitment:**

- \$44,000 in 2021-2022
  - \$44,000 in 2022-2023
  - \$24,000 in 2023-2024
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**Grant objective:** Purchase of educational technology

**Plan:**

- Enhance classroom technology through the upgrading of existing smart boards with smart tv's/interactive white boards
- Provide students with the latest one-to-one devices to successfully complete coursework, ensure seamless communications with instructional staff, and fully access to online learning management system.
- Where teachers may be required to instruct remote-based students, outfit those classrooms with better cameras and microphones with sensor technology for seamless audio and video during lessons
- Upgrade e-mail platform to enhance cyber security

**School years:**

- 2021-2022
- 2022-2023
- 2023-2024

**Expected Grant funding commitment:**

- \$287,500 in 2021-2022
- \$220,000 in 2022-2023
- \$220,000 in 2023-2024

**Grant objective:** Address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all students, including English language learners

**Plan:**

- Provide English language learners with a remote summer instructional program to ensure they can capture credits which may have not been successfully completed during the school year.

**School years:**

- Summer 2021
- Summer 2022
- Summer 2023

**Expected Grant funding commitment:**

- \$10,000 in 2021-2022
  - \$10,000 in 2022-2023
  - \$10,000 in 2023-2024
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**Grant objective:** Support early childhood education

**Plan:**

- Staff each full-day Universal Pre-Kindergarten classroom with one five-hour paraprofessional to assist the teacher in classroom management and student learning objectives.

**School years:**

- 2021-2022
- 2022-2023

**Expected Grant funding commitment:**

- \$120,000 in 2021-2022
- \$120,000 in 2022-2023

**Grant objective:** Safely return students to in-person instruction

**Plan:**

In an effort to further improve indoor air quality and circulation in buildings,

- invest in a one-time district-wide comprehensive ventilation assessment to evaluate if ventilation is adequate and has air flow required by NYSED Building Code and follows the US EPA IAQ in Schools Guideline as well as the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standard
- purchase stand-alone air purification units for nurses offices, associated isolation rooms, and any other instructional spaces identified as needing supplemental fresh air movement
- purchase new roof-top exhausts in large common areas (gyms, cafeterias) to further improve ventilation in these spaces

**School year:**

- 2021-2022

**Expected Grant funding commitment:**

- \$234,300 in 2021-2022