

INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS

ESSER 3.0 Plan Updates

FALL 2022

Congress approved nearly \$200 billion through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). Knox County Schools' share of ESSER 3.0 totaled nearly \$114 million. Our commitment is to "strategically use ESSER 3.0 funds so that ALL students, across ALL Schools, and ALL student groups, will have access to the continuing support and the tools needed to thrive in grade-level instruction to equip them for success post-graduation."



Dr. Jon Rysewyk
Superintendent

During the summer months, we aligned the KCS ESSER priorities detailed in the needs assessment with the State Focus Areas for ESSER reporting and our district priorities under Superintendent Rysewyk's leadership. This shift was an effort to better monitor the greatest impacts on learning while creating accountability for sustainable change.

As a result, the conversation about ESSER over time will shift from "spending" to support of initiatives intended to address learning loss during the pandemic to how ESSER is coherently working with other funding sources and strategies to impact progress towards improved learning outcomes for students.

Our Assistant Superintendents will guide the current work related to ESSER this school year as our "Focus Area Owners", with support from Dr. Elizabeth Norton, Assistant

Superintendent of Strategy.

"Knox County has tremendous educators, and ESSER has provided them with important tools and resources," said Dr. Norton. "As a district, we have taken a strategic approach to the use of this funding, and I believe the structures we created to accurately and effectively measure the return on this investment will also help us continue to improve and accelerate learning for our students."

"ESSER funding has been a vital resource as Knox County Schools navigated the challenges of the pandemic," said Superintendent Dr. Jon Rysewyk. "As we sharpen our focus on the district's four priorities we remain grateful for this essential funding source, and we are committed to integrating it into our core mission in a way that is seamless and efficient."



Dr. Liz Norton
Assistant
Superintendent
of Strategy

ESSER COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Share your
thoughts at

knoxschools.org/esser



KCS ESSER Areas and Leaders



Dr. Keith Wilson
Assistant
Superintendent
of Academics

Excellence in Foundational Skills

Next steps:

- Implement early literacy and math of KCS instructional practice guides and walk-through tools for monitoring
- Create an online parent portal to provide families with videos and other content to support understanding of students' universal screener reports and communication with teachers
- Implement strategies and partnerships with postsecondary EPPs to increase the number of tutors
- Provide leadership development opportunities related to early literacy and math
- Focus resources and support around implementation of high quality instructional materials

Career Empowerment & Preparation

Next steps:

- Establish CEO Champions and Steering Committees to provide governance for The 865 Academies
- Identify career-themed academies for the first cohort of Academy high schools
- Identify the second cohort of schools to engage in The 865 Academies during the 23-24 school year
- Develop more consistent approaches to career awareness and exploration across the middle grades.
- Develop proposal plans for initial site-based, work-based learning projects (including equipment requests/estimates, architectural plans, and construction-related estimates).



Jennifer Hemmelgarn
Assistant
Superintendent of
Business & Talent

Great Educators in Every School

Next steps:

- Identify first cohort of leaders to attend Cognitive Coaching training
- Monitor current and identify future participants for Grow Your Own (GYO) programs
- Monitor effectiveness of permanent substitute positions in filling staffing voids



Jason Myers
Assistant
Superintendent of
Student Success



Dr. Garfield Adams
Assistant
Superintendent of
Operations

Success for Every Student

Next steps:

- Develop year-long training for whole-child support teams
- Train staff on expanded research-based student interventions
- Secure contract approval for interactive panels
- Prepare for next round of device purchases
- Develop architect agreement for Newcomer Center

KCS is hiring
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