

ESSER 3.0 Public Plan for Remaining Funds

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, was enacted on March 11, 2021. Funding provided to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) helps safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students.

In the fall of 2021, LEAs developed and made publicly available a *Public Plan - Federal Relief Spending*. All plans were developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups. Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

The following information is intended to update stakeholders and address the requirement.

General Information

LEA Name: Knox County Schools

Director of Schools: Jon Rysewyk

ESSER Director: Cheryl Martin

Address: 505 Summer Place – UTT, Knoxville, TN 37902

Phone #: 865.594.1800

District Website: <https://www.knoxschools.org>

Addendum Date: August 15, 2023

Total Student Enrollment:	60,590
Grades Served:	Pre-K - 12
Number of Schools:	91

Funding

ESSER 2.0 Remaining Funds:	\$11,598,068.61
ESSER 3.0 Remaining Funds:	\$84,486,761.63
Total Remaining Funds:	\$96,084,830.24

Budget Summary

		ESSER 2.0 Remaining Funds	ESSER 3.0 Remaining Funds
Academics	Tutoring	206,892.78	18,327,499.85
	Summer Programming		
	Early Reading		550,711.59
	Interventionists		
	Other	5,750,288.00	15,257,403.64
	Sub-Total	5,957,180.78	34,135,615.08
 			
Student Readiness	AP and Dual Credit/ Enrollment Courses		
	High School Innovation		1,538,792.56
	Academic Advising	67.88	5,239,959.38
	Special Populations		851,146.90
	Mental Health		3,857,831.14
	Other	940.01	
	Sub-Total	1,007.89	11,487,729.98
 			
Educators	Strategic Teacher Retention		4,299,350.95
	Grow Your Own		1,771,288.55
	Class Size Reduction		
	Other	131,815.38	1,155,797.68
	Sub-Total		7,226,437.18
 			
Foundations	Technology	2,338,823.53	9,038,092.72
	High-Speed Internet		
	Academic Space (facilities)	1,570,918.68	10,043,563.59
	Auditing and Reporting		221,012.94
	Other	1,598,322.35	12,334,310.14
	Sub-Total	5,508,064.56	31,636,979.39
 			
Total		11,598,068.61	84,486,761.63

Academics

1. Describe strategic allocations to accelerate **Academic Achievement**, including how allocations support the investments identified in the district's needs assessment.

Knox County Schools has not revised their ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. Knox County Schools will continue to focus specifically on K-3 foundational skills, middle grades mathematics, and Algebra I; however, there are supports for building a cohesive system across all subjects, grades, and schools. The allocations provide the following opportunities. Direct student support with high dosage tutoring in foundational skills and middle grade math, both full and part time tutors in elementary and middle schools. High school students have access to the Tennessee tutoring services, credit recovery sessions, and school-specific tutoring options. Investment in teacher continuing education through tuition reimbursement for obtaining a Reading Specialist degree or secondary math certification. The purchase of high-quality curriculum in ELA and Math for all K-12 students.

2. Describe initiatives included in the "other" category.

Knox County Schools has not revised their ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. Knox County Schools will focus on initiatives that include working with an external partner to develop a clear vision for foundational skills proficiency and middle grades math and Algebra I proficiency with a specific walk-through tool to capture baseline and set improvement goals for high-leverage pedagogy in those areas. Purchase a robust assessment system to identify skill and knowledge gaps as well as professional development on using the data to make strategic decisions to support student learning. Investments in capacity building at the school with external partners to support high-quality instructional materials and efforts to identify, diagnose, prescribe, and measure learning difficulty and the interventions and remediation strategies. Additionally, the district is investing in re-building a coherent system of evaluation, subject area support, new teacher induction and mentoring, and leadership development that focuses on data-driven decision making, and student outcomes, both academic and social emotional.

Student Readiness

1. Describe strategic allocations to support **Student Readiness** and the School-Related Supports necessary to access high-quality instruction, including how allocations support the investments identified in the district's needs assessment.

Knox County Schools has not revised their ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. Knox County Schools will continue to focus on the development and implementation of an integrated systems model of career advising and academic support based on the KCS portrait of a graduate/ready graduate, to prepare students for their post-graduation choices beyond high school. The strategic allocations to support student readiness include a partnership with Ford Next Generation Learning to implement district-wide plans to redesign the high school model through the development of community connected career themed academies. The development of middle school advisory course curriculum will create more intentional support for students to explore their personal interests and connect it to available academic options, elective tracks, and post-secondary career pathways. Professional development for

academy staff in partnership with Ford Next Gen. Career related experiential learning, and career exploration software. The hiring of college and career counselors/mentors/teachers to assist schools in identifying opportunities to meet the TN Student Milestone for College and Career Readiness. High school academy coaches to serve as liaisons working with external stakeholders to plan and develop experiential learning opportunities and work-based learning experiences. Purchase software that will enable the district to track school counseling data and assist in ensuring school counselors work aligns with district expectations. Purchase instructional materials to create Community-Based Instruction for low incident disability students in both real world and simulated experiences.

Knox County Schools will partner with Helen Ross McNabb to provide additional mental health counselors for students, as well as a mobile crisis therapist assigned to Knox County Schools for immediate support and assessments. Knox County Schools will contract with IIRP and Safer Saner Schools to evaluate the strategies and programs needed to address chronic absenteeism and behavior challenges the disrupted learning has exacerbated.

2. Describe initiatives included in the “other” category.

Knox County Schools has not revised their ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. Knox County Schools used ESSER 2 funds for guidance counselors for the virtual schools (elementary, middle, and high school).

Educators

1. Describe strategic allocations to **Recruit, Retain and Support Educators and School Personnel**, including how allocations support the investments identified in the district’s needs assessment.

Knox County Schools has not revised their ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. Knox County Schools will offer teachers in ATSI, TSI, and CSI schools an extended contract. Knox County Schools will pay a stipend to teachers to be content specific department chairs in elementary, middle, and high schools. Knox County Schools is going to pay stipends to approximately 17 highly effective math teachers to mentor apprentice teachers. To support the administrator pipeline, Knox County Schools will provide professional development to administrators to enhance the yearlong onboarding and mentorship for new principals. Knox County Schools proposes to offer tuition reimbursement for math tutors identified as Grow Your Own for up to 60 college credit hours towards math teaching certification. Knox County Schools will hire apprentice math teachers to mitigate the math teacher shortage.

2. Describe initiatives included in the “other” category.

Knox County Schools has not revised their ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. The funds are budgeted for stipends for K-3 teachers to attend foundation reading course follow-up to earn micro-credentials. Knox County Schools will work with an external partner to develop a walk-through tool to establish baseline for measuring the implementation of high-leverage math strategies in math foundational skills instruction, and work with an external partner to develop a walk-through tool to provide consistent feedback on instructional priorities. In combination with general purpose funding,

grant funding hired supplemental teachers, educational assistants, and instructional coaches for the Knox County Schools new virtual schools (ESSER 2). Stipends for Knox County Schools Department of School Culture staff to provide district training on behavior management, restorative practices, social emotional learning, and mental health needs.

Foundations

1. Describe strategic allocations to **Strengthen Structural Expectations**, including how allocations support the investments identified in the district’s needs assessment.

Knox County Schools has not revised their ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. Funds are budgeted for the purchase of devices for every student and teacher. To support the one-to-one technology purchase, funds were budgeted for protective cases for the devices. For students enrolled in one of the Knox County Schools virtual schools, ESSER 2 funds are budgeted for document cameras, students headsets, and Promethean Active Panels. Knox County Schools will be replacing outdated Promethean panels in all the schools, as well as providing document cameras to all classrooms.

Funds were budgeted in ESSER 2 to create additional classroom space for one of the KCS elementary schools to support social distancing in the classroom setting. HVAC repairs and replacement will be done in multiple schools to improve air quality and circulation. Lincoln Park renovations will create the Newcome Academy.

1

2. Describe initiatives included in the “other” category.

Knox County Schools has not revised the ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. Funds are budgeted to purchase off-site filtering software that will address connectivity issues to support online learning. A software management system to protect students, KCS equipment, and KCS servers from web-based threats. KCS will purchase software to measure the effectiveness of our educational technology investments. The software will allow staff to quantitatively measure the use of educational applications and websites.

Monitoring, Auditing, and Reporting

1. Outline how the LEA is continuing to actively monitor allocations; conducting interim audits to ensure an appropriate application of funds; collecting and managing data elements required to be reported; and reporting this information to the community.

The ESSER 3 Project Manager will support the plan by creating and updating a Gantt chart outlining tasks by quarter, monitoring progress toward goals, as well as measure the effectiveness of the resources requested to mitigate learning loss as related to student academic outcomes. The Federal Programs department will monitor the grant to ensure compliance with all reporting requirements. The Federal Programs department will work with the Knox County Schools finance department to facilitate monitoring and auditing related to ESSER funds. The Director of Federal Programs will coordinate with the Senior Accountant and/or Chief Financial Officer to discuss progress of spending.

2. Describe how the LEA is meeting the requirements to spend 20 percent of **the total ESSER 3.0 allocation** on direct services to students to address learning loss, or indicate participation in TN ALL Corps.

Knox County Schools is participating in the TN All Corp tutoring. Knox County Schools hosted Summer Learning Camp blended with STREAM camps for rising 1st through 5th graders. All middle schools hosted summer camp for four weeks, and all high schools hosted summer bridge camps for four weeks. Knox County Schools plans to continue to offer these opportunities to students.

Family and Community Engagement

1. Describe how the LEA has continued to engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders in the development of the revised plan.

Knox County Schools has not revised their ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. The LEA will continue to engage stakeholders via updated information on the school website ESSER page, community meetings, public forums, board of education meetings, and a community survey link on the KCS school website ESSER page.

2. Describe how the LEA engaged at minimum 10 percent of the total stakeholders engaged vs. responses received in the development of the revised plan.

Knox County Schools has not revised their ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. The LEA engaged a minimum of 10% of the stakeholders via updated information on the school website ESSER page, community meetings, public forums, board of education meetings, and a community survey link on the KCS school website ESSER page.

3. Describe how the LEA engaged a representation of a diverse population of stakeholders.

Knox County Schools has not revised their ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. Knox County Schools will continue to engage diverse populations of stakeholders via community surveys, focus groups meetings, and attending community based meetings and organizations.

4. Describe how the LEA used multiple modes of engagement (such as surveys, scheduled in-person or virtual meetings, and town halls) to gain input from stakeholders in the development of the revised plan.

Knox County Schools has not revised their ESSER 3 budget with any changes from the original plan. Knox County Schools will continue to engage stakeholders by conducting surveys, in-person and virtual meetings, networking with community organizations to attend local meetings, board of education updates, and planned focus group meetings.

KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION


This Document is approved by the Knox County Board of Education on the 7th day of September, 2023, as reflected in its minutes, and certified by its Chairperson.



Kristi Kristy, Chair

Date: 9/7/2023

Approved by
Knox County Board of Education

9/7/2023 

KNOX COUNTY GOVERNMENT



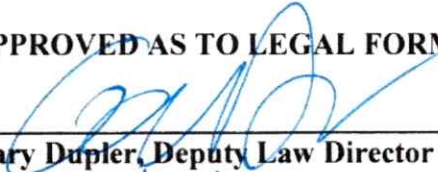
Glenn Jacobs, Mayor

Date: 9/15/23

KNOX COUNTY LAW DEPARTMENT

CONTRACT #: 23-538

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM



Gary Dupler, Deputy Law Director

Date: 8/29/2023