

Below is a summary of your responses

# Montana School District ARP ESSER Plans

# Federal Requirement

The US Department of Education (USED) required the OPI to establish a process for district plans consistent with the ARP ESSER requirements for the use of ARP ESSER funds and ensure plans be made available to the public, within no later than 90 days after a district received its ARP ESSER allocation (August 24, 2021). The requirements for the school district plans include, at a minimum, how districts will:

- 1. use funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies;
- 2. use the funds totaling not less than 20% to address lost instructional time;
- 3. spend its remaining 80% of ARP ESSER funds;
- 4. respond to needs of student disproportionately affected by the pandemic; and
- 5. meaningfully engage with and consult stakeholders in crafting their plans.

Each of these federally required components are embedded into this school district ARP ESSER plan.

In addition, the USED requires the OPI to support and monitor each school district's use of ARP ESSER funds, including:

i. implementation of evidence-based interventions;

ii. address the student groups specifically that were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic; and

iii. identify, reengage, and support students who have experienced the impact of lost instructional time.

The plan will provide the information necessary for the OPI to support and monitor school districts as they move forward.

# State Components

Throughout this school district ARP ESSER plan, the OPI has emphasized local control and coordination of state initiatives and requirements so that school districts can identify and innovate solutions for unique local needs and priorities. These components are embedded in the school district ARP ESSER plan. Additionally, the OPI will seek flexibility from the Board of Public Education to use the Goals section of this plan in place of the Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP).

Download PDF

This template will guide the development of the school district's (LEA's) ARP ESSER plan. The template sections are as follows:

- 1. School District-Identified Priorities
- 2. Meaningful Consultation
- 3. Goals
- 4. Coordinating Funds
- 5. Creating Safe and Healthy Learning Environment
- 6. Addressing Lost Instructional Time
- 7. Supporting the Educator Workforce
- 8. Monitoring and Measuring Impact of ARP ESSER funds

# Prior to beginning your school district ARP ESSER plan, consider the following:

- Has your district and/or individual schools within the district completed a Gap Analysis to assist in identifying the top needs due to Covid 19? If no, click on <u>Gap Analysis</u>.
- What kinds of data assisted you in identifying the gaps?
- What were the needs you identified in your subgroups?
- Did you meet with all stakeholders to get input on needs and possible solutions to formulate a plan for the funds? (Parents, Students, Teachers, Staff, Community Members, Tribal Members, School Board, etc...) If not, how will you make this happen prior to creating your plan?

# Instructions for completing your school district ARP ESSER plan

- When you reach a stopping point, click Next to save your work. Return anytime before August 24 to finish your submission.
- When you're ready, click Submit at the end of the plan.
- After you click Submit, your responses will display in a PDF file. Download the PDF file.
- Upload the PDF file of your responses to your district's webpage.

Note: The option to edit is no longer available once the plan is submitted by clicking the Submit button. If you click Submit and then determine later that you need to make changes, contact OPITeams@mt.gov.

# While completing your school district ARP ESSER plan, consider the following:

- What would you like to achieve before the funding ends in September of 2024?
- What goals will need to be established in order to get there?
- You may need to leave and come back to this form as you formulate your plan.
- You will still need to complete the eGrants application for ESSER III that is due

the budget amounts reported in eGrants.

## Resources to help with completing your plan

- <u>Curriculum Selection</u>
- <u>Acceleration Guidance</u>
- <u>ESSA Tiers of Evidence</u>
- Gap Analysis Tool
- U.S. Department of Education FAQ ESSER/GEERS
- FAQ's of Maintenance of Equity Requirements
- Montana Office of Public Instruction ESSER website
- <u>SEL Priorities</u>

## Next Steps:

- The OPI will confirm your submission via the email you provide at the start of your plan.
- The OPI will reach out with questions and support as needed.
- Districts will need to set up their own monitoring which needs to be paired with implementation.
- Districts will be able to answer these same question every 6 months. The OPI created this temporary form as a means to meet the federal timelines; it will be put in a more permanent location where you can access and update your plan.
- The OPI will use this form to collect best practices to share with other districts.

Please choose your county and district from the dropdown.

County	Cascade •
District	Mont Sch for Deaf Blind, LE9258

Who is submitting this form?

Paul Furthmyre

Please indicate your role in the district.



O Other (Please identify your role in the box below.)

What is your official school district email address?

pfurthmyre@msdb.k12.mt.us

What is your school district phone number?

#### 4067716000

### 1. School District-Identified Priorities

Please provide the top priorities the school district has determined as the most pressing needs for students and schools within the school district as a result or in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. You may elect between 1-3 priorities by checking the box and providing the text response.

#### Priority 1

Many of the students served by MSDB have little understanding of how to control their emotions and more importantly, how to function in the society we live in. Our students have little access to peers and even family members that know how to communicate with them. Many students have low expectations of them placed by others in unfair manners. This affects their overall ability within our educational setting. We find that many students do not possess the necessary attitudes, the can do attitude, that will help them overcome challenges with reading, writing etc. This became even more evident with COVID. Therefore, MSDB has a desire to implement Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into all aspects of our school system. According to CASEL, "SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions."

#### **Priority 2**

The main educational building on campus does not have windows for the classroom. The current ventilation system is set up to work with all doors open in the building. If one door is closed, that will throw the entire system off. With that said, we are in need of working on a ventilation system that will continuously move fresh air in and out of all classrooms and offices. It is our desire to update our ventilations system to reflect our needs. To have the ability to better set settings on our system that will keep the fresh air flow moving smoothly and efficiently. With our population, it is necessary to allow for doors to be closed.

#### **Priority 3**

We currently have two different systems that provide broadband services to our school. To have access to state level services, we have T1 lines that enter into the building. For us to have wireless access, we contract with Visionnet. During COVID, our bandwidth was not strong enough to handle instructing students at home. It is our desire to upgrade our wireless capabilities to have a faster connection, possibly even up to 1 Gbps. It is also our desire to upgrade our physical connection to that of fiber. Both of these moves will allow us to serve our students better now and in the future.

When you identified each of your district's priorities, what data points did you use? Please list any and all data sources, such as attendance, interim assessments, surveys, etc.

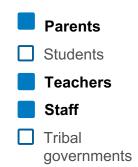
MAP Academic Assessment, Cognia Climate Culture Surveys, Cognia School Improvement Surveys, Property Management Documents, Bandwidth Reports

Please indicate which of the following student groups specifically referenced in ARP ESSER were more affected than others in your district. Choose all that apply.

Economically Disadvantaged (Free and Reduced Lunch)
U White
Black or African American
American Indian or Alaska Native
Multi-Racial
Migrant
Homeless
Foster Youth
Children with Disabilities
Male
Female
English Language Learners
Other (please identify in the box below)
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## 2. Meaningful Consultation

ARP ESSER requires school districts to consult with a wide variety of stakeholders when developing a plan. Please select all of the following groups of stakeholders your district consulted and/or plans to consult.



Local bargaining units
Educational advocacy organizations
County health departments
Community members
Other (please identify in the box below)

What method(s) did you use to seek stakeholder input? Choose all that apply.

Webinars
Public meetings
Website
Media
Social media
Email
Other (please identify in the box below)
Personal Conversations

## 3. Goals

Goal Action Plan:

Please define your Math goal, English Language Arts (ELA) goal, and other goal,

based on the priorities you identified.

Explain what instruments or methods will be used to monitor the progress of the goals and determine if the goals are met. Click the box and provide the text response for each applicable box.



## ELA Goal

During the pandemic, it became clear that MSDB needed to align its ELA program to better meet the needs of the students. It became clear that we had large gaps in our scope and sequence as evidenced by the MAP scores we received. MSDB then began to develop a strong evidenced based program in collaboration with the MCLSDP Grant provided by OPI. We have completely changed and updated our materials to include programs that will develop students abilities from Preschool to High School. The materials were selected based on feedback from other Deaf and Blind Schools and What Works Clearinghouse. With that being said, MSDB has set the following goals with regards to FLA instruction for

the current school year: Utilizing the EasyCBM assessment as the measurement tool, we will decrease the percentage of students in Tier 3 by 10% by May 2022, and increase the percentage of students in Tier 1 and/or Tier 2 by 10% by May 2022. By Fall 2022, establish an intervention model that provides targeted instruction based on a student's assessment data for literacy skills. Increase family engagement, including cottage staff, with a variety of different avenues with regards to ELA.

#### Other Goal (For example, SEL, Mental Health, Graduation Rates, Recruitment/Retention, Professional Development, Community and Family Engagement, etc.)

MSDB provided a 6-hour general overview of the five domains of SEL. At the end of the training, all staff were surveyed about whether we should begin implementing a SEL program and 88% stated yes. Staff were then asked as to what strategy they would like to see the implementation take place, teaching an explicit SEL Skills instruction and implementing organizational, culture, and climate strategies were the two highest approaches selected by the staff. Staff were told this would be a great investment to use the 20% set-aside with and most agreed. In addition, while selecting new ELA resources to address literacy; the team has made sure that aspects of SEL are included into the materials. Therefore, MSDB will naturally start using an approach to integrate SEL in the academic curriculum. With that being said, MSDB has set the following goals with regards to ELA instruction for the current school year: Utilizing the What Works Clearinghouse and Regional Learning labs, MSDB will use ESSER funds to purchase an explicit SEL skills curriculum and professional development by July 1, 2022. Utilizing the Cognia professional services contract to incorporate SEL as a main focus at MSDBs continuous improvement cycle by July 1, 2023.

### Goal Action Plan, Part 2:

Identify what strategies/action steps will be used to support the achievement of the goals. Describe a realistic and achievable timeline to achieve the goals.

L

dentify who is responsible to ensure the strategies/action steps are achieved.

Click the box and provide the text response for each applicable box.

Math Goal Strategies, Actions, Timelines, and Assignments

# ELA Goal Strategies, Actions, Timelines, and Assignments

Adopt, provide PD, and implement diagnostic assessments (October 1, 2021) Adopt, provide PD, and implement high quality core reading program (October 1, 2021) Develop instructional practices, provide PD on research on evidence-based lesson design (October 1, 2021) Implement writing program (January 1, 2022) Implement Social Emotional Strategies within reading program (November 1, 2021) Research and purchase supplemental online resources and digital materials (October 1, 2021) All of these strategies will be monitored using the ELA action plan. The Literacy Team will be responsible for seeing that these strategies are implemented correctly.

#### Other Goal (For example, SEL, Mental Health, Graduation Rates, Recruitment/Retention, Professional Development, Community and Family Engagement, etc.) Strategies, Actions, Timelines, and Assignments

Create a team to oversee the implementation of a SEL program (September 17, 2021 /

Furthmyre). Identify and develop contract with professional SEL representative to help guide dialogue to include in continuous school improvement plan (November 1, 2021) Adopt, provide PD, an effective SEL program for use in the class (February 1, 2022) Include SEL components into the Envisioning and Planning phase of CSIP (July 1, 2022)

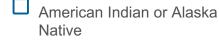
For which of the following student groups do you have a distinct Math goal? Choose all that apply.

American Indian or Alaska Native
Black or African American
Hispanic
MultiRacial
White
Free and Reduced Lunch
Homeless
Students with Disabilities
None

For which of the following student groups do you have a distinct English Language Arts (ELA) goal? Choose all that apply.

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Black or African American
- Hispanic
- MultiRacial
- White
- Free and Reduced Lunch
- Homeless
  - Students with Disabilities
- None

For which of the following student groups do you have a distinct goal other than Math or ELA? Choose all that apply.





Describe your Math goal for each identified student group.

NA

Describe your ELA goal for each identified student group.

As our school is a special needs school for students with disabilities, hearing and vision specific; our ELA goal is the same for all students at MSDB.

Describe your Other goal for each identified student group.

As our school is a special needs school for students with disabilities, hearing and vision specific; our SEL goal is the same for all students at MSDB.

If you are planning to develop or use approaches that are novel to achieve your Math, ELA, or other goal, would you be willing to have the OPI share your approaches with state and federal entities? If so, please briefly describe your innovation below.

#### 4. Coordinating Funds

Identify other federal funding that you are coordinating with ARP ESSER funds to most effectively use funds to address student needs.

Did you coordinate ARP ESSER funds with other federal funds to address student needs?



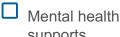
Please select each type of federal funding you are coordinating with ARP ESSER funds to most effectively use funds to address student needs.

- Title I, Part A of the ESEA (Improving Basic Programs Operated by LEAs)
- Title I, Part A-section 1003 school improvement (Comprehensive and Targeted Supports)
- Title I, Part C of the ESEA (Education of Migratory Children)
- Title I, Part D, Subpart 1 of the ESEA (Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At Risk)
- Title II, Part A of the ESEA (Supporting Effective Instruction)
- Title III, Part A of the ESEA (English Language Acquisition, Language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement)
- Title IV, Part A of the ESEA (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)
- Title IV, Part B of the ESEA (21st Century Community Learning Centers)
- Title V, Part B, Subpart 2 of the ESEA (Rural and Low-Income School Program)
- McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program and section 2001(b) (1) of the ARP Act
- Carl D. Perkins Act Career and Technical Education Act
- IDEA, Part B (Excess costs of providing FAPE)
- IDEA, Part B (Coordinated Early Intervening Services)
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

# 5. Creating Safe and Healthy Learning Environments

Determine if ARP funds will be used to **implement prevention and mitigation strategies**, to the greatest extent practicable, in order to continuously operate schools for in-person learning.

If you are planning to use ARP ESSER funds for prevention and/or mitigation strategies, please select the evidence-based practices below and/or describe an additional practice in the Other box.



Supports
Social emotional learning
Academic support
Extended learning/enrichment
Hiring new staff and avoiding layoffs
Meeting the nutritional needs of underserved students.
Locating absent students and re-engaging disconnected youth
Providing safe, healthy, inclusive learning environments.
Activities to address the unique needs of at-risk populations.
Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts
Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases
Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities
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.
Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) 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.
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.
Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and nonmechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement
Other (please identify in the box below)

If you are planning to develop or use approaches that are novel to implement prevention and mitigation strategies, would you be willing to have the OPI share your approaches with state and federal entities? If so, please briefly describe your innovation below.

## 6. Addressing Lost Instructional Time

Describe how the school district will use ARP ESSER funds it reserves under Section 2001(e) (1) of the ARP Act to **address lost instruction time** through the implementation of evidencebased interventions. The district must spend a minimum of 20% of ARP ESSER funds. The full implementation of the evidence-based interventions should be considered including personnel, materials, equipment, professional development, and expenses needed to meet the needs of students. Other evidenced-based practices may be utilized if the intervention meets one of the four tiers of evidence. Evidence-based practices may be found at <u>OPI's Multi-Tiered Systems of Support</u> page.

How do you plan to spend the required 20% set-aside to address lost instructional time? Choose all evidence-based practices that apply.

Extended learning time

- Tribal/community engagement
- Wraparound academic/health/social services
- SEL learning supports

#### Evidenced-based curriculum

- Accelerating learning through instructional approaches: In-school acceleration-Certified educators provide support for students within the classroom and grade-level work, using high-quality instructional materials, instructional strategies, and formative assessments.
- Accelerating learning through instructional approaches: Tutoring program-High-dosage tutoring provided consistently by well-trained tutors or educators at least 3 days per week for at least 30 minutes at a time in groups of five or fewer students.

Accelerating learning through instructional approaches:Out-of-school time programs-Identified students, needing additional support before, and after the regular school days, as well as on weekends, and during school breaks.

Accelerating learning through instructional approaches: Summer learning and enrichment: Summer learning programs, camps, community partnerships, work-based learning or community service that provide high-quality instructional and are designed to meet the social and emotional needs of student through engaging and enriching experiences.

Access to and effective use of technology

Engaging families in digital learning training and effectively using technology and platforms

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

Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students

Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement provided by the

school
Using data about students opportunity to learn indicators to help target resources and support
Professional Learning Communities
Access to advanced coursework, dual enrollment, work-place learning, and/or internships
Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education expenses (approved under Perkins Act)
Distance/Remote Learning: connectivity (hot spots, outfitting buildings/buses with WiFi, other wireless, internet service, etc.), devices (laptops, tablets, etc.), printing costs for learning packets, instructional resources/tools, hardware, software, subscriptions, licenses, assistive technology or adaptive equipment, online learning platforms/learning management systems, other distance/remote learning costs
Other (please identify in the box below)

How do you plan to use the remaining 80% for the allowable uses of funds related to preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19 as required by ESSER I, II, and III? See page 5 of the ARP ESSER Fact Sheet for more information. Choose all evidence-based practices that apply.

- Extended learning time
- Tribal/community engagement
- Wraparound academic/health/social services
- SEL learning supports
- Evidenced-based curriculum
- Accelerating learning through instructional approaches: In-school acceleration-Certified educators provide support for students within the classroom and grade-level work, using high-quality instructional materials, instructional strategies, and formative assessments.
- Accelerating learning through instructional approaches: Tutoring program-High-dosage tutoring provided consistently by well-trained tutors or educators at least 3 days per week for at least 30 minutes at a time in groups of five or fewer students.
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- Access to and effective use of technology
- Engaging families in digital learning training and effectively using technology and

platforms
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
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Mental health supports
Hiring new staff and avoiding layoffs
Meeting the nutritional needs of underserved students
Locating absent students and re-engaging disconnected youth
Providing safe, healthy, inclusive learning environments
Activities to address the unique needs of at-risk populations
Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts
Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases
Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities
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.
Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) 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.

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.

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

Other (please identify in the box below)

If you are planning to develop or use approaches that are novel to address lost instructional time, would you be willing to have the OPI share your approaches with state and federal entities? If so, please briefly describe your innovation below.

# 7. Supporting the Educator Workforce

Determine if ARP funds will be used to support and stabilize the educator workforce consistent with Section 2001 (e) (2) of the ARP Act.

How do you plan to use ARP funds to support and stabilize the educator workforce? Choose all that apply.

Cover costs of offsetting the need to furlough or reduce the salaries of school-based staff
Cover costs of bonuses for recruiting and retaining educators and support personnel
Additional pay for additional work
Class-size reduction
Technology to support learning: enable students to learn anywhere and teachers to teach essential standards
Additional professional development for school leaders, teachers, and staff (trainings, extended professional development days, programs, etc.)
Staffing additional physical and mental health support staff (counselors, social workers)
Other (please identify in the box below)

Please provide the estimated number of jobs (FTEs) that have been or will be created by the

school district through the district's planned use of ESSER III Funds.

0

Please provide the estimated number of jobs (FTEs) that have been or will be **retained** by the LEA through the LEA's planned use of ESSER III Funds.

0

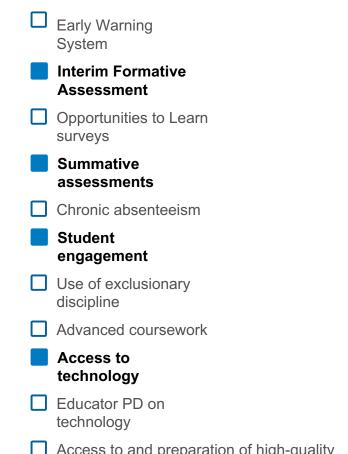
If you are planning to develop or use approaches that are novel to support and stabilize the educator workforce, would you be willing to have the OPI share your approaches with state and federal entities? If so, please briefly describe your innovation below.

# 8. Monitoring and Measuring Impact of ARP ESSER funds

How will the District monitor the impact of the ARP ESSER funded interventions or strategies, including but not limited to the 20% set-aside, to respond effectively to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted?

The school will use identified assessments with regards to ELA instruction bi-weekly to monitor all students progress. The school will work with a professional SEL consultant and develop and then implement an assessment that will be used to indicate SEL affect on culture and climate.

Please indicate the type of data you are obtaining and using to monitor outcomes.



	educators
	Access to mental health and nursing staff
	Student, parent, or educator surveys
	Per-pupil expenditures
	Classified and certified staff (numbers of positions or people)
	Summer, Afterschool, and ESY enrollment
	Health protocols
	Student enrollment by Mode of instruction
	Student attendance by Mode of Instruction
	Other (please identify in the box below)

The OPI has created a way for the district respondents to return to this plan and edit it multiple times before submitting. You can return anytime before August 24 to finish your submission.

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- This plan must be monitored continuously and updated every six months.
- The OPI will confirm your submission via the email you provide at the start of your plan.
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Thank you for your submission!

