

Oklahoma ARP ESSER State Plan Highlights

Total ARP ESSER allocation for Oklahoma: \$1,494,647,051

ARP ESSER funding released to Oklahoma on March 24, 2021: \$995,721,713

ARP ESSER funding released to Oklahoma on July 15, 2021: \$498,925,338

2020-2021 Preliminary Statewide Enrollment: 694,113

Top Priorities within Oklahoma's plan:

- Addressing the loss of face-to-face instruction time
- Addressing student learning gaps
- Providing social-emotional learning and mental health supports to students

Highlights of Oklahoma's Plan:

- **Returning to In Person Learning and Safely Reopening Schools and Sustaining Safe Operations:** Given that the majority of districts in Oklahoma provided in-person instruction for students in the 2020-2021 school year, OSDE expects all districts will provide full-time in-person instruction in the 2021-2022 school year. In support of that expectation, OSDE's *Ready Together Oklahoma: An Action Plan for Supporting Students Through the Pandemic and Beyond* provides resources and strategies to help students regain disrupted learning, feel safe and succeed within their local school community and beyond.
- **Addressing the Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time:** OSDE will partner with Oklahoma college and universities to invest ARP ESSER funds in a Math Tutoring Corps to help address middle and high school learning disruptions due to the pandemic. OSDE is also investing in science and math professional development opportunities for educators. Additionally, it will invest in paid student teaching and first year teacher induction programs. All interventions will have evaluative measures applied through internal processes, collaboration with education partners, or contractual arrangements with external evaluators.
- **Investing in Summer Learning and Expanded Afterschool Programs:** OSDE intends to invest ARP ESSER funds to implement evidence-based summer learning and enrichment programs and to expand afterschool programming through partnerships with the YMCA and Boys & Girls Clubs. These programs will target the most at-risk youth. They will provide supports for academic recovery, social and emotional support, and access to technology. OSDE will provide competitive grant opportunities for funding to begin or enhance summer school programs, giving priority points to those applicants that will serve the most underserved populations and those that had their learning most disrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic. These opportunities will supplement the 102 existing 21st Century Community Learning Centers in the state to provide afterschool programming.
- **Staffing to Support Students' Needs:** OSDE will use ARP ESSER funding to hire new school counselors, mental health professionals, and recreational therapists due to an identified shortage in the state. OSDE has awarded grants for 222 school counselors, 94 licensed mental health professionals, and 42 contracts for services. OSDE has launched a School Counselor Corps grant to allow districts to apply for funding to increase the number of school counselors, licensed mental health professionals, licensed recreational therapists and/or mental health contract services. Additional school counselors and school-based mental health professionals may also assist with student needs caused by the high incidence of childhood trauma in Oklahoma and the impact of the pandemic on students. Additionally, OSDE will employ five student support

specialists to provide training, technical assistance, and coaching to all counselors hired under this initiative and any other counselors wishing to attend. Trainings will be provided to these new employees in order to best meet the academic, college and career, and social and emotional needs of students. OSDE will also launch new Social & Emotional Learning Competencies (PK-grade 12 and adult) in summer 2021. These competencies are based on the Collaborative for Academic, Social & Emotional Learning (CASEL) five evidence-based competencies: self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills and social awareness.

- **Community Engagement and Consultation:** OSDE worked to develop a recovery plan, *Ready Together Oklahoma*, with meaningful and actionable best practices for Oklahoma schools by facilitating a number of focus group meetings with a diverse group of stakeholders in January-May 2021 to determine the needs of students, families, and educators due to the impact of COVID-19.
- **When Oklahoma LEA Use of Funds Plans will be due:** August 19, 2021