

### **What is the purpose of the ARP ESSER III funds?**

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding was created to award subgrants to school districts and LEA's, including LEARN 9 Campus Waukegan, to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools. ESSER III funding was awarded to enable LEARN 9 Campus Waukegan to develop a plan to "safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic" on a continuous basis.

### **How much funding is available to WPS60?**

A total of \$1,097,076 is available to LEARN 9 Campus Waukegan. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has a list of available funds for all of the state's school districts on its website.

### **How does WPS60 know its grant amount?**

Grant allocations are posted on ISBE's grant allotment document [here](#). LEARN 9 Campus Waukegan was awarded \$1,097,076 in funding as approved by ISBE. In addition, LEARN 9 Campus Waukegan funding totals were also listed on the [ISBE](#) website.

### **What is the funding period for ARP ESSER III grants?**

Funds were distributed to LEARN 9 Waukegan on July 1, 2021 and will continue to be utilized at the District until September 30, 2024.

### **What are the federal requirements around the District ESSER III Use of Funds Plan?**

To comply with federal requirements, LEARN 9 Campus Waukegan will engage in meaningful consultation with all stakeholders, including but not limited to parents, school and network leadership, and teachers, to include their feedback as we develop our plan to use the ARP ESSER III grant. In light of COVID-19, we will solicit input on how we plan to use the funding through a public survey. We will use our website, e-communications, and word of mouth to inform stakeholders about the survey and encourage participation.

LEARN 9 Campus Waukegan must provide its plan for the uses of ARP ESSER III funds in an understandable and uniform format. We will post LEARN 9's plan for the uses of ARP ESSER III funds to our website within 30 days of receiving our ESSER III Notice of Grant Award.

### **Are the ESSER III funds required to be used for specific purposes?**

All funds awarded to LEARN 9 Campus Waukegan will adhere to grant guidelines. A minimum of 20% of our grant will support learning loss. Per grant guidelines, we can use the funds to support:

1. Proven intervention programs, including but not limited to after school programming, tutoring, and ESL courses for LEARN 9 families.
2. Programming and interventions that respond to students' academic, social, emotional and mental health needs, and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student populations as defined in ESEA, Title I, Part A, students experiencing homelessness, students with disabilities, migratory students and youth in foster care.

### **Are there recommended uses of ESSER III funds that will assist school districts in addressing the impact of the COVID pandemic and disruptions leading to learning loss?**

In accordance with grant guidelines, LEARN 9 will use ESSER III funding to ensure we safely operate our school and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our scholars. More than 20% of our grant will go towards learning loss, and the remaining funds will support the health and safety of our facility and school community and technology. Below are examples of how ESSER III funds will be used to support these efforts:

1. Educational Materials: High quality ELA curriculum and intervention materials, English Language (EL) program materials, after school programming and tutoring, in-house substitutes, and contractual academic intervention staff.
2. Health and Safety: classroom furniture to support social distancing, student PPE, cleaning services, enhanced security systems, and a school Nurse.
3. Technology: Student and staff computers, smartboards

### **What are some of the allowable uses of the ARP ESSER III funds?**

ESSER funds are provided to be used in any or all of the following designated areas which include: addressing learning loss, providing professional development, improving indoor air quality, providing social and emotional supports, and updating and providing technology. According to ESSER guidelines, no less than 20 percent of total funding allocation per school must address learning loss. LEARN 9 Campus Waukegan utilizes

ESSER funds to address learning loss through targeted small group instruction. Below are examples of how ESSER funds can also be used:

- Universal and correct mask wearing
- Physical distancing and modifications necessary to achieve the same
- Facility cleaning and maintenance
- Diagnostic and screening testing
- Accommodations for students with disabilities