

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress approved several emergency support measures, including the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) is allocated to each state and distributed to each school district based on the district's Title 1 allocation. Dickinson Public Schools will receive approximately \$10 million in ESSER II and III disbursements to aid in preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19. This one-time funding will expire in three years. Dickinson Public Schools is incredibly grateful for the assistance to help target learning loss, student learning, and budget shortfalls.

The North Dakota Department of Instruction has outlined the [Local Educational Agency Use of Funds for ESSER funding](#). DPS engaged our staff and community to provide feedback and input on their priorities for the ESSER funding in our district. After collecting responses, stakeholders highlighted the following priorities for ESSER:

- Offer additional academic supports (e.g., extended summer school, K-12 tutoring, after school supports)
- Enhance instructional materials for classrooms
- Provide additional access to social-emotional supports (e.g., increased access to resources for families, increased extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, additional mental health supports.
- Strengthen technology systems to support all possible learning needs
- Identify building facility projects to improve health and safety needs (air quality, sanitation, etc.)

We created three overarching themes for this funding: invest in people and processes we already have, support for students and staff, and sustainability. After reviewing feedback from staff and the community, Dickinson Public Schools has created a preliminary plan to invest in the following:

- School audits on efficiencies of High Reliable Schools Level 1 and Level 2
- Districtwide wellness program to help ensure social-emotional and physical health for all staff
- Trauma-informed school resource for all staff
- Increase social-emotional support for staff
- Improve family engagement communication
- Develop a comprehensive literacy framework
- Increase classroom libraries for staff
- Increase and develop Response to Intervention capacity in schools
- Increase training and personalized professional development for staff
- Create additional busing opportunities for students who need support after school
- Develop a guaranteed and viable curriculum

- Cover budget shortfalls created from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Purchase additional buses
- Create additional opportunities for students who wish to pursue DSU Dual Enrollment
- Career and Technical Education development
- Infrastructure updates in buildings
- Supplies to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic

Dickinson Public Schools will continue to seek feedback from stakeholders as the plan evolves.