Responsibly Leveraging Federal COVID Funds

*Recover, Restore and Reimagine*

Stakeholder Focus Groups

June 2021
Norms and Agreements

...for a productive, collaborative session!

• There are no easy answers;
• Assume best intentions of all participants;
• Collaborate and communicate;
• Disagree professionally;
• Solve problems by focusing on the process and issues, not the person;
• Expect unfinished business.
Federal COVID Funds Overview

**CARES Act/ESSER I**
- On Friday, March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law.
- Provides $30.75 billion nationwide for an Education Stabilization Fund.
- Four grant programs were created through the CARES Act: Education Stabilization Fund Discretionary Grants; Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund; Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER I) Fund; and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

**PCS Funds:** $23 million

**ESSER II**
- The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), was signed into law on December 27, 2020.
- Provides an additional $54.3 billion nationwide for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund).
- Funding sunsets September 2023

**PCS Funds:** $85 million

**American Rescue Plan (ARP)**
- On Thursday, March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law.
- It is a $1.9 trillion package of assistance measures, including $122 billion nationwide for the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund.
- Funding sunsets September 2024.

**PCS Estimated Funds:** $200 million
# Side-by-Side: ESSER, ESSER II, and ARP ESSER Allowable Activities

The following side-by-side chart shows the allowable activities for each pool of funding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESSER (CARES ACT)</th>
<th>ESSER II (CRRSA ACT)</th>
<th>ARP ESSER (ARP ACT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of LEAs with state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing resources for principals and other school leaders to address school-specific needs.</td>
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<td>Not included in the ARP Act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities that address unique needs of low-income children, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youths, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing and implementing procedures, systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and professional development for staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean facilities operated by an LEA.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and coordination during long-term closures, including how to provide meals to students, how to provide online learning technology to all students, how to provide guidance on meeting IDEA requirements, and how to ensure other educational services continue to be provided consistent with federal, state, and local requirements.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing educational technology, which could include hardware, software, and connectivity, for students served</td>
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See ESSER Overview Chart in the chat!
CARES/ESSER I Accomplishments

- Successful reopening for in-person and virtual learning
- Launch of PCS Connects
- Digital Platforms that Support Learning
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols
- Nursing Support and Services
- COVID Team
Council of the Great City Schools

INVESTING AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS STRATEGICALLY AND EFFECTIVELY: Guidance for Districts

Guiding Principles and Consideration Excerpts

• Plan with the end in mind and build for the future.
• Do not start from scratch: Build from the best of your current vision, mission, goals, values, and strategic plan.
• Build capacity: Invest in building staff knowledge and skills to have both immediate and long-term impact on student outcomes. Invest in educational infrastructure. Retain high performers. Develop homegrown talent pipeline programs.
• Focus on core instruction: Put more funds into improving Tier I instruction than remediation programs.
• Strive for high-leverage, high-impact investments, or promising practices with a track record of success.
• Embrace systems thinking: Watch for disjointed projects, initiatives, or products.
• Manage change: Guide stakeholders throughout the process.
• Ensure sustainability.
Ten years from now...

School districts must be able to demonstrate not only fiscal oversight of these funds, but how the investment of these funds positively and sustainably changed education for students.

ESSER II
American Rescue Plan

By September 2024
- Eliminate the impact of COVID-19;
- Create enhanced academic supports for student acceleration and academic growth in all grade-levels and content areas;
- Develop modernized systems and practice which ensure sustained change;
- Accelerate student learning past pre-COVID performance; and
- Demonstrate successful stewardship and oversight for program development and management.
Strategic Directions and Goals

The strategic directions, encompassing seven strategic goals, guide the long-term work of Pinellas County Schools. These high-leverage areas directly align with the district’s vision, mission and core values and set the direction for the continuous improvement of both schools and district departments.

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Student Achievement

Strategic Goal 1: Increase student achievement resulting in improvements for each school’s learning gains, grade-level proficiency rates, graduation rates and school grade designations of A or B.

Strategic Goal 2: Ensure curriculum, instruction, and assessment are designed and delivered with a focus on content rigor, student engagement, and continuous improvement of academic achievement.

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Career- and College-Readiness

Strategic Goal 3: Achieve the District’s mission for career- and college-readiness for all students by adopting high quality standards, interdisciplinary curriculum content, aligned instructional practices, appropriate student supports, necessary resource allocations and parent and community engagement.

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Learning in a Safe Environment

Strategic Goal 4: Develop and sustain a healthy, respectful, caring, safe learning environment for students, faculty, staff and community resulting in individual employee learning, student achievement and overall school improvement.

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Effective and Efficient Use of Resources

Strategic Goal 5: Develop and sustain effective and efficient use of all resources by providing quality technology and business services to optimize operations for improved student achievement and fiscal responsibility.

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Equity with Excellence for ALL

Strategic Goal 6: Ensure equal opportunity and excellence in education by ensuring the needs of each and every student are known and met, in order to increase performance and reduce the disparity in graduation rates, proficiency scores on assessments, participation and performance in accelerated courses, disciplinary infractions and placement in Exceptional Student Education programs.

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Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

Strategic Goal 7: Develop and sustain effective structures for communication and ongoing engagement of students, staff, families and community.
# ESSER II and ARP Priorities

**Recover, Restore and Reimagine**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Year Programs for Academic Recovery and Acceleration</td>
<td>Professional Development and Materials for Implementation of BEST Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System Improvements to Support Student Learning</td>
<td>Summer Program Expansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equitable Educational Opportunities</td>
<td>Parent and Family Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recover, Restore and Reimagine</td>
<td>Mental Health and Nursing Supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Operational Supports</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As we go through each bucket, I will ask you the following questions.

• What was the most important to you, why?
• What was the least important for you, why?
• What questions do you have?
• What other ideas do you have?

We will use the draft planning document that was sent to you in advance of the session and located in the chat box as a guide for our discussion and review.
District Strategic Plan Alignment

**Strategic Direction:** Student Achievement

**Strategic Goal 1:** Increase student achievement resulting in improvements for each school’s learning gains, grade-level proficiency rates, graduation rates and school grade designations of A or B.

**Strategic Goal 2:** Ensure curriculum, instruction, and assessment are designed and delivered with a focus on content rigor, student engagement, and continuous improvement of academic achievement.

**Strategic Direction:** Career- and College-Readiness

**Strategic Goal 5:** Achieve the District’s mission for career- and college-readiness for all students by adopting high-quality standards, interdisciplinary curriculum content, aligned instructional practices, appropriate student supports, necessary resource allocations and parent and community engagement.

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**Example Projects**

*Does not represent all planned projects*

- Early Learning and Literacy
- Level-UP and Schoolwide Enrichment Activities
- Accelerated expansion of College and Career Centers
- Targeted supports for ESE and EL students
- AVID and Advanced Studies Enhancements
- Tutoring Services

**Estimated Project Funds (ESSER II and ARP)**

$84 million
ESSER II/ARP Priority: Professional Development and Materials for Implementation of BEST Standards
Recover, Restore and Reimagine

District Strategic Plan Alignment

Strategic Direction: Student Achievement

**Strategic Goal 1:** Increase student achievement resulting in improvements for each school’s learning gains, grade-level proficiency rates, graduation rates and school grade designations of A or B.

**Strategic Goal 2:** Ensure curriculum, instruction, and assessment are designed and delivered with a focus on content rigor, student engagement, and continuous improvement of academic achievement.

Example Projects
*Does not represent all planned projects*

- BEST Standards Professional Development Institutes
- Resources and Materials to support BEST Standards
- Redesigned model of professional development and support
- Development of Public Facing Curriculum Supports

Estimated Project Funds (ESSER II and ARP)
$59 million
ESSER II/ARP Priority:
Summer Program Expansion
Recover, Restore and Reimagine

District Strategic Plan Alignment

**Strategic Direction:** Student Achievement

**Strategic Goal 1:** Increase student achievement resulting in improvements for each school’s learning gains, grade-level proficiency rates, graduation rates and school grade designations of A or B.

**Strategic Goal 2:** Ensure curriculum, instruction, and assessment are designed and delivered with a focus on content rigor, student engagement, and continuous improvement of academic achievement.

**Example Projects**
*Does not represent all planned projects*

- Summer Bridge Expansion
- Summer Bridge Coaching Model
- Expand and Enhance Summer Enrichment Programs

**Estimated Project Funds (ESSER II and ARP)**
$21 million
ESSER II/ARP Priority: Parent and Family Programs
Recover, Restore and Reimagine

District Strategic Plan Alignment

**Strategic Direction:** Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

**Strategic Goal 7:** Develop and sustain effective structures for communication and ongoing engagement of students, staff, families and community

**Example Projects**
*Does not represent all planned projects*

- PCS Connects Family Programs
- Early Literacy Engagement Strategy
- BEST Standards Family Programs

**Estimated Project Funds (ESSER II and ARP)**
$5.1 million
ESSER II/ARP Priority: System Improvements to Support Student Learning

Recover, Restore and Reimagine

District Strategic Plan Alignment

**Strategic Direction: Student Achievement**

**Strategic Goal 1:** Increase student achievement resulting in improvements for each school’s learning gains, grade-level proficiency rates, graduation rates and school grade designations of A or B.

**Strategic Direction: Effective and Efficient Operations**

**Strategic Goal 6:** Develop and sustain effective and efficient use of all resources by providing quality technology and business services to optimize operations for improved student achievement and fiscal responsibility.

**Strategic Direction: Communication and Stakeholder Engagement**

**Strategic Goal 7:** Develop and sustain effective structures for communication and ongoing engagement of students, staff, families and community.

Example Projects

*Does not represent all planned projects*

- Updated and Enhanced Data Systems
- Technology Hardware and Equipment
- Enhanced Communication and Structural Support
- School Attractor, Magnet and Enrollment Support

Estimated Project Funds: $33 million
ESSER II/ARP Priority: Mental Health, Nursing and Student Supports

Recover, Restore and Reimagine

District Strategic Plan Alignment

**Strategic Direction:** Learning in a Safe Environment

**Strategic Goal 3:** Develop and sustain a healthy, respectful, caring, safe learning environment for students, faculty, staff and community resulting in individual employee learning, student achievement and overall school improvement.

**Example Projects**

*Does not represent all planned projects*

- **Mental Health Triage Teams**
- **Additional Nurse or Contract Needs**
- **Additional Support for Students Experiencing Homelessness**

**Estimated Project Funds:** $11.6 million
ESSER II/ARP Priority: COVID-19 Operational Supports
Recover, Restore and Reimagine

District Strategic Plan Alignment

**Strategic Direction:** Learning in a Safe Environment

**Strategic Goal 3:** Develop and sustain a healthy, respectful, caring, safe learning environment for students, faculty, staff and community resulting in individual employee learning, student achievement and overall school improvement.

**Strategic Direction:** Effective and Efficient Operations

**Strategic Goal 6:** Develop and sustain effective and efficient use of all resources by providing quality technology and business services to optimize operations for improved student achievement and fiscal responsibility.

Example Projects

*Does not represent all planned projects*

- Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Unexpected changes in FTE
- Facility Changes or Charges due to COVID-19
- ESSER/ARP Funds Management and Oversight

Estimated Project Funds: $20 million
ESSER II/ARP Priority: Equity
Recover, Restore and Reimagine

District Strategic Plan Alignment

**Strategic Direction:** Equity with Excellence for ALL

**Strategic Goal 4:** Provide equity and excellence of education by ensuring the needs of each and every student are known and met, in order to increase performance and reduce the disparity in graduation rates, proficiency scores on assessments, participation and performance in accelerated courses, disciplinary infractions and placement in Exceptional Student Education programs.

**Example Projects**
*Does not represent all planned projects*

- Administrator On-Assignment for Enhanced Systemic Support
- District Equity Evaluation
- Consultant Support and Partnerships
- Professional Development and Resources

**Estimated Project Funds:** $10 million
As we go through each bucket, I will ask you the following questions.

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• What was the least important for you, why?
• What questions do you have?
• What other ideas do you have?

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Oversight, Sustainability and Support

*Starred boxes represent specific positions for program oversight funded by ESSER/ARP.

**Documentation and update processes will also be adopted for District Strategic Plan action goals.
Next Steps

As more direction and processes are released by the FDOE, the following will occur over the next 30-60 days.

- Continue to Gather Feedback and Input
- District Strategic Plan 2021-22 Development
- Grant Development
- Project and Sustainability Planning