

Great Oaks Charter School - Wilmington

DRAFT ESSER III Plan

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CHARTER SCHOOLS
Great oaks, from little acorns grow

ESSER Overview

- In March 2021, Congress passed a stimulus bill that provides funding to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.
- The American Rescue Plan (ARP), also known as ESSER III, is providing Great Oaks Charter School - Wilmington with approximately \$1.8 million dollars.
- ESSER funds are a one-time, non-recurring revenue stream. This is emergency aid.
- All ESSER funds must be spent according to specific State and Federal guidelines and deadlines issued by the respective Departments of Education.



Intent of the ESSER Funds

- **COVID Response**
- Consider the Entire Health of Each Student
- Address academic challenges
- Prepare for emergencies
- Develop contingency plans in line with CDC and Public Health officials
- Come out stronger



ESSER Allowable Expense Categories

The fourteen allowable use categories are listed below.

Great Oaks' plan is currently focused on the six bold categories.

Address Learning Loss	Addressing the Needs of Children
Implement Public Health Protocols	Preparedness & Response Efforts of LEAs
Preparedness & Response Efforts	Long-Term Closure Considerations
Staff Training on Disinfecting	Instructional Technology
Disinfecting and Cleaning Supplies	Mental Health Services
Repairing and Improving School Facilities	Supplemental Learning
Improving Indoor Air Quality	Other Activities



ESSER Focus Area: Address Learning Loss

- Planned Expenditures for this category = \$570,000
- Purchasing and introducing high-quality instructional materials and curricula
- Partnering with Wilmington-based organization to increase engagement, improve enrichment, and embrace joy
- Partnering with mission-aligned nonprofits to implement proven high school programming, models, and SAT Prep
- To reinforce strong instructional focus, introduced several new roles
 - Dean of Curriculum & Assessment
 - Instructional Coach
 - Reading Interventionist



ESSER Focus Area: Implement Public Health Protocols

- Planned Expenditures for this category = \$40,000
- Contribute towards costs associated with CEB's nurse team, including one nurse focused on COVIDS protocols
- Manage COVID testing
- Maintain appropriate protective equipment on all floors



ESSER Focus Area: Addressing the Needs of Children

- Planned Expenditures for this category = \$568,000
- Provide additional staffing to identify and address student-level needs
 - (1) College and Career Counselor
 - (2) Social Workers
 - (2) Assistant Deans of Students
 - (1) Behavioral Health Specialist
 - (1) High School Teacher
- Purchase and roll out Social-Emotional Learning curricula in all grades
 - Includes training for teachers
- Purchase tools/app to promote positive behaviors and recognize growth



ESSER Focus Area: Instructional Technology

- Planned Expenditures for this category = \$35,000
- Contract with local IT experts to maintain secure, robust infrastructure while having the bandwidth to respond to emergent issues



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ESSER Focus Area: Supplemental Learning

- Planned Expenditures for this category = \$50,000
- Partner with local nonprofit(s), so that scholars may lead their own passion projects (including senior capstones)



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ESSER Focus Area: Other Activities

- Planned Expenditures for this category = \$310,000
- Additional staff to manage ESSER-related programs, oversee first graduating class, upgrade English learner program, and continuously increase family connections
- Partner with local organization to provide extra layer of tutoring and college prep/access
- Purchase and implement use of “best in class” database that helps staff fully meet the needs of diverse learners



Next Steps Associated with DRAFT ESSER III Plan

- Submit to Delaware Department of Education for approval.
- Post plan on Great Oaks' website; seek input from Great Oaks Community.
- Incorporate feedback. Share revised ESSER III Plan with Community and Department of Education.
- Hold formal review every six months until ESSER III funds are exhausted.
- Funds must be used by September 2024.
- Reach out to dburke@greatoakswilm.org with any questions or input!

