



Oconomowoc Area School District
ESSER III Plan
July 2023 Update

Background Information

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, the third federal COVID-19 relief law, passed in March 2021, provides one-time funds for our district through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III grant program.

The grant application process includes several required steps that the Oconomowoc Area School District (OASD) must complete in order to receive the ESSER III funds. One such step requires OASD to review and revise, as appropriate, the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023.

OASD families, students, staff, and community members may share ideas and input on the programs and services that benefit from ESSER funds through the Public Participation segment of School Board meetings and the 'Email Us' tool available on the District's website.

Our Planning Committee



A group of OASD leaders drafted our plan for the ESSER III funds. This group consisted of:

- Administrative Team (Department Leaders)
- School Principals
- School Board

We sought feedback from the following stakeholder groups:

- OASD Families
- OASD Staff
- OASD Students
- OASD Medical Advisory Committee
- Oconomowoc Community Members

ESSER III Grant Basics



- Oconomowoc Area School District expects to receive \$2,334,000 in ESSER III funding.
- Funds will be used to support our response to the COVID-19 pandemic taking place from March 13, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2024. OASD plan aligns with the intended purposes of ESSER funds.
- Funds are intended to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our students.
- In December 2021, the District shared how ESSER funds were earmarked for the 2021-22 school year. The 2022-23 school year plans were outlined in the budget, including how OASD was addressing the needs of students identified as disproportionately affected by COVID-19. These plans continue for the 2023-24 school year.

The OASD must use a minimum of 20% of the ESSER III funds to implement evidence-based interventions to address learning loss. The OASD must ensure that interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.

ESSER III funds can also be used to prevent, prepare for, or respond to COVID-19 with expenditures for preparedness and response plans, addressing longterm school closures, outreach and services for special populations, mental health services and supports, and educational technology.

What are/were key expenditures?



- Employed reading and math interventionists assigned to targeted student groups as a component of our multi-tiered systems of supports.
- Provided training opportunities for District staff specific to our approved intervention programs in reading and math.
- Maintained additional speech and language staffing to support identified student needs.
- Implemented a universal screening tool (DESSA) K-12 which identifies students in need of social and emotional supports.
- Organized and continued a Life-Ready Curriculum Committee. These individuals learned about core competencies related to life-ready skills, and recommended a decision to support tier I instructional resources.
- Programmed summer school to provide continued intervention-based groups and supports.
- Provided the Canvas learning platform in grades 5 – 12, along with 1:1 device-to-student program in grades 5K – 12.
- Maintained the Dean of Students position for grades 5 – 8 to provide mental health supports.

Snapshot of OASD Needs



Who was disproportionately affected by COVID-19 in our district:

- OASD's 2020-2021 Achievement Data reflected growth, rather than significant learning loss.
- The most prominent achievement gaps continue to exist for our students of color, English learners, students with disabilities, and students experiencing poverty.

What we were seeing:

- The District continues to observe similar trends to pre-Pandemic conditions as it relates to student subgroup achievement.

Priorities for Addressing Learning Loss



The OASD plans to use approximately \$1,555,000 of the ESSER III funding for initiatives that address learning loss or identified achievement gaps. We will focus those funds on:

- Personnel (interventionists) to support our multi-tiered systems of supports model in reading and math.
- Instructional coaching FTE to directly support staff, with the intent of improving tier I instruction for all student groups.
- Various student learning assessments and screening tools.
- Summer school programming that provides continued intervention-based groups and supports.
- Development of internal teacher leaders as Life-Ready curriculum leaders, with the intent of implementing revised Tier I to enhance student learning in the area of SEL.
- Alternative Education positions at OHS to improve educational outcomes for at-risk students.
- FTE for speech and language pathologists and school psychologists to address the increased needs for students with disabilities and students struggling with mental health.
- Devices, software, and access to facilitate student learning and staffing to support the increased technology needs of students, staff, and families.
- Continuance of the Oconomowoc Virtual Learning Community (OVLC) as part of OHS to support students who prefer to learn with the flexibility of a virtual setting.

Priorities for Addressing Other Needs



The OASD plans to use \$779,000 of the ESSER III funding to address other needs. We propose to focus those funds towards:

- Implementation of a universal screening tool (DESSA) K-12 which identifies students in need of social and emotional supports.
- Adoption of Life-Ready curriculum.
- Anti-bullying curriculum adoption at the intermediate schools.
- Dean of Students leadership positions at the intermediate schools.
- 1:1 device-to-student program in grades 5K-12.
- Improved communication and website design.
- Technology services staffing to support increased technology needs of students and families.
- Student-Family Assistance Program (SFAP) with Aurora Health Care.
- Custodial cleaning staffing, personal protective equipment, and supplies to support personal hygiene and sanitation.

2023-24 Budget Update



As OASD drafted the 2023-24 operational budget, the utilization of ESSER III funds were reviewed and updated.

- Funds will continue to be targeted towards addressing the needs of students identified as disproportionately affected by COVID-19, the priorities for addressing learning loss, and various other needs identified on the previous slides.
- A minimum of 20% of the ESSER III funds will be used to implement evidence-based interventions to address learning loss.
- The OASD will ensure that interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.
- Funds may also be used to prevent, prepare for, or respond to COVID-19 with expenditures for preparedness and response plans, addressing long-term school closures, outreach and services for special populations, mental health services and supports, and educational technology.

OASD Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan



In addition to an ESSER III plan, OASD must also submit its plan for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

- For the 2023-24 school year, Board Policy 453.3 Communicable Diseases reflects operational requirements.
- The [2023-24 OASD Illness Guidelines](#) and [2023-24 Communicable Disease Plan](#) will be shared with the community at the July 19 meeting, where public comment opportunities are provided. These plans continue to allow students and staff to return safely, outline illness guidelines, and highlight mitigation measures, if and as necessary.
- These plans will be available to the public on the District's website aligned with the Board meeting date. The public has the opportunity to post questions and feedback through an active link on the District's website.

Where We Go From Here



OASD ESSER III plan was certified by the Department of Public Instruction on July 28, 2022, and January 31, 2023.

Next steps:

- OASD will continue to seek feedback on its Safe Return to In Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plans at the regular school board meetings on the third Wednesday of each month. Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback during the public participation portion of each meeting.
- The district will monitor and consider community input at Board meetings and website submissions and modify its plan accordingly.
- The Safe Return to In Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plans are available on the District's website. These plans will be reviewed, and revised as necessary, at least every six month through September 30, 2023.

For More Information



Visit the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's website for ESSER III funds: dpi.wi.gov/arp/esser-iii



THANK YOU!