



ARP ESSER Plan for Public Display

“Learning always occurs in a context of taking action, and they value engagement and experience as the most effective strategies for deep learning.”

Author: Richard DuFour

- Muhlenberg School District submitted the ARP ESSER grant February 24, 2022
- Allocation: \$5,659,916.00
- Narrative of uses
 - ***How will the LEA use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs?***
 - The summer of 2021 the Muhlenberg School District created a summer program to respond to learning loss, as we introduced MSD Summer Style 2021. The focus of the program was to "fall back in love with school" through an educational focus grounded in literacy and FUN. The program had three sessions that ran for 12-days per session in June, July, and August. Each session was built on remediation, literacy and STEM while preparing all our students through continuity of education in a “camp-like” setting. Registration was open to ALL students entering grades 1st through 12th in all three phases and incoming Kindergarten in August session for MSD KinderCamp. The sessions were completely free to our students, who enjoyed breakfast and lunch each day. We welcomed almost 1,800 of our students across the 36 days this summer! Students experienced two blocks of learning that included: the CORE block - a Problem-Based Approach to solving challenges and Social-Emotional Learning through Team-Building, and the Get Involved! block - an introduction to the many sports and activities that the Muhlenberg School District has to offer. Some of the very popular Get Involved! blocks included steel drums and ukulele, culinary, learn to swim, art camp, Esports, baseball, lacrosse, dance, field hockey, soccer, Lego challenges, and many other activities. All students lost the relationship piece of education during the pandemic. This opportunity was offered to every one of our students. We offered transportation, meals, language assistance to make sure any group impacted by the pandemic had the opportunity to impact.

The June and July session was offered at the same time as our extended-school year and compensatory service program, giving students with disabilities the same opportunity through education, transportation, and meals. The Muhlenberg School District remained virtual for three quarters of the 20-21 school year, and came back in a hybrid model for the remaining quarter. MSD Summer Style brought many students in the early grades the experience of face-to-face education for the first time. This program became much bigger than we expected, using 20% of our reserved funds during this first summer.

- The spring of 2022, the Muhlenberg School District offered MSD Spring Style, much like the summer program, focusing on intervention, credit recovery, and enrichment. This program is running two days a week for all of March and April after school. Students are given a snack before going to the classroom of their assigned teacher. Transportation is provided home, along with a hot meal through our partnership with the Hispanic Center in Reading, Pa.
- Both summer and spring programs will continue over the next few years.
- ***How will the LEA spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds including for each of the four fields below, as applicable?***
 - a. The remaining funds will continue to support our summer and Afterschool Programs through 2024. We were so successful in the inaugural programs, meeting the needs of our students and families by focusing on learning loss through relationships, that we plan on continuing this model. We will continue to engage all of our stakeholders in meeting the students' needs, and make changes to the programming to address students' academic needs; students' and staff social, emotional, and mental health needs; and student nutrition and food services. By offering summer and afterschool programming for our students to build relationships we anticipate improving attendance, academic success, and the overall well-being of our staff, students, and families. b. New positions and staff reassignments have occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The salaries of these positions will be supplanted using ARP ESSER funds. c. We constantly monitor the CDC and DOH latest guidance. The superintendent communicates with all stakeholders on a frequent basis. Our facilities are well-maintained and additional staff needed to be hired to help with the additional use of our facilities through summer and after-school programming. The Muhlenberg Health and Safety Plan has been updated four times to reflect the ever-changing complex situation that COVID-19 presents. We will continue to monitor and update based on the latest guidance. d. Due to the pandemic, all student devices travel back and forth between home and school. This has created a greater need to replace equipment. Nearly 20% of the allocation has been dedicated to technology

needs of the district. e. With the Department of Education guidance, the Muhlenberg School District will consider using ARP ESSER funding to combat teacher shortages through retention bonuses and the hiring of long-term substitutes to serve as building subs. f. With some families choosing not to return their child to in-person schooling, the Muhlenberg School District has partnered with Edgenuity as our on-line platform for those remaining virtual. g. At this time, we do not plan on using ARP ESSER funding to upgrade our facilities. All initial cleaning, PPE, and equipment for sanitization was purchased using ESSER 2 funding.

- Muhlenberg School District is engaging stakeholders through the following:
 - Surveys to families
 - Surveys to staff
 - Phone calls and emails to families
 - District Website
 - School board meetings
 - Planning meetings with teachers for both summer and after school programming
 - Planning meetings with teacher managers for both summer and after school programming
 - Monthly meetings with department chairs and grade level leaders
 - Assistant Superintendent and MEA Leadership meetings