



ESSER III Use of Funds Plan

The American Rescue Plan Act provides resources to school districts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Education portion of this funding, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief's (ESSER III or ARP ESSER) purpose is to help schools and districts safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and must respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Dartmouth Public Schools ESSER III allocation is \$2,945,298.

Addressing Learning Loss and Social and Emotional Needs

The district is required to use twenty percent of its ESSER III allocation to address the academic impact of learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and ensure that those interventions respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups. The minimum required use of funds for those purposes is \$589,060. The Dartmouth Public Schools will exceed that amount and allocate \$2,254,450 to address those needs utilizing the following strategies:

- Providing mental health services and supports by adding social worker and guidance counselor staffing
- Providing additional literacy and math support for students
- Providing additional special needs services, occupational therapy and speech therapy supports for students
- Adding staffing in special education, adapted physical education, and acceleration recovery
- Adding teacher assistant support staff
- Implementing afterschool and summer learning programs
- Providing professional development for social, emotional, diversity and equity training
- Utilizing additional testing and assessment materials
- Providing additional instructional technology materials

Other Use of Funds

The district will allocate a portion of the remaining funds to improve preparedness and response to COVID-19. To do this, school nurse staffing will be increased. The remaining funds will be paid to the Massachusetts Teacher's Retirement System as required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.