



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Amy Clouter

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

To: School Committee

Re: ESSER-3 Federal Grant Application: Recommended Amendment

Date: January 13, 2023

As shared previously in a memo dated September 22, 2021, The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund provided an additional \$1,229,980 of funding for our school district for use to address various needs related to educating students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This latest federal grant, known as ESSER-3, came with an extensive list of requirements for approved use, as outlined [here](#) in a resource shared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education [MA DESE]. Additionally, the application process required outreach to stakeholders and engagement with the community to develop a district plan. As noted by Dr. Sawyer at the time, the district used ThoughtExchange, an online forum, to survey families, staff, collective bargaining unions and community groups. Stakeholder feedback solicited online and during subsequent meetings with various groups informed the planning process and ultimately your vote of approval for Shrewsbury's plan. Ultimately, a formal application was submitted to DESE on October 4, 2021. Importantly, the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Funds may be expended through September 30, 2024, and we've learned a lot about how best to align supports to effectively meet district needs in the interim. This memo will describe a proposal to amend the grant as we approach the deadline for expending ESSER funds.

As you may recall, Shrewsbury's plans for using ESSER funds reflected the priorities shared by stakeholder groups, namely that the district provide support for mental

health, behavioral and academic needs. The specific recommendations shared by Dr. Sawyer at that time can be found in [this memo](#).

These investments targeted key priorities faced by the district during the pandemic. However, in some cases projected costs were less than anticipated. The Summer Academy program saw lower enrollment than anticipated, for example, which resulted in lower staffing costs. Further, at the Middle level we have been unable to fill the proposed tutor positions. As a result we underspent planned ESSER-3 grant expenditures in FY2021 and FY2022. [**See attached spreadsheet detailing expenditures to date and those planned for current and future fiscal years.**] More recently, district leaders have realized the value of allocating resources to services that can be accessed during or directly after the conclusion of the academic day.

The bullets below detail four specific adjustments we hope to make with your approval to amend our spending plan and leverage these funds into FY24.

Briefly, we seek to:

- allocate funding for high quality curriculum materials to support literacy
- extend the funding of HS counselor
- continue to fund a late bus for students in grades 5-12, and
- increase funds for academic tutoring at the Elementary level

It should be noted that 20% of the funds must be used “to address lost instructional time 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:

- low-income children or students
- children with disabilities,
- English learners,
- racial and ethnic minorities,
- students experiencing homelessness, and
- children and youth in foster care”

Even with adjustments, this plan continues to meet this funding threshold for providing support for “lost learning time,” and is designed to provide mental and emotional health support for students, per the grant’s suggested areas of focus.

Because the original ESSER-3 grant application and associated multi-year budget required a vote of the School Committee prior to submitting to MA DESE, we are recommending you vote to approve this amendment prior to the administration submitting it to them for their approval.

I look forward to discussing this plan with you at your next meeting on January 18.

Grant 119: ESSER III Approved Grant

			<i>REVISED PLAN</i>					
<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Original Award</i>	<i>Actual FY22</i>	<i>Planned FY23</i>	<i>Planned FY24</i>	<i>Planned FY25</i>	<i>Amendment Amt. 3-Year Total</i>	<i>Change from Original</i>
Instructional/Prof Staff Salaries	Counselors	222,270.00	\$ 88,302	\$ 49,523	\$ 76,229	\$ -	\$ 214,054	\$ (8,216)
Support Staff Wages	Tutors	232,576.00	\$ 50,840	\$ 53,820	\$ 55,000	\$ -	\$ 159,660	\$ (72,916)
Stipends	Summer Academy	430,130.00	\$ 91,046	\$ 106,187	\$ 108,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 415,233	\$ (14,897)
Fringe Benefits-MTRS Cont	Pension Rqmnt	20,004.00	\$ -	\$ 9,301	\$ 11,811	\$ -	\$ 21,111	\$ 1,107
Contractual Services		\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies and Materials	Literacy & Curr. Materials	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ 28,472	\$ -	\$ 103,472	\$ 103,472
Travel		\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other	Late Bus Service	\$325,000.00	\$ -	\$ 142,026	\$ 174,424	\$ -	\$ 316,450	\$ (8,550)
Equipment		\$0.00					\$ -	
Totals		\$1,229,980	\$ 230,188	\$ 435,857	\$ 453,936	\$ 110,000	\$ 1,229,980	\$ -