

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #054 (2021-2022)

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

TO: SCHOOL BOARD
FROM: DR. DEENA BISHOP, SUPERINTENDENT
SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF ARP ACT GRANT AWARD

ASD Core Value: *The District will be open, transparent and accountable to the public.*

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve and authorize the Superintendent to accept an American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act grant from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in the amount of \$112,451,632.

PERTINENT FACTS:

The ARP Act, signed into law on March 11, 2021, provides funding and flexibility for States to respond to the COVID-19 emergency, work to fully reopen K-12 schools, and provide interventions to students who have been adversely affected by the pandemic.

Allocated funding is available to the District to be spent from July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024 and the District has preliminarily identified several areas that will be a high value response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a mandatory 20 percent directed toward evidence-based interventions to address learning loss initiatives, facility and air quality enhancements, and maintaining class sizes, and school board goal initiatives.

The administration will strategically develop recommendations to use the funds in FY22 through FY24. Planning and assessments, focused on student outcomes, will be aligned with future input from the Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF) members, community & staff members, and the school board.

The administration will provide specific recommendations, in this memo, for the use of funds. Future board memos will recommend additional uses of funds as planning phases are completed.

Learning Loss Initiatives - \$4,300,000

The ARP Act set a minimum of 20 percent of funding (\$22,490,326) that must be used to address learning loss. Assessments and planning will continue to identify and address areas in which learning loss can be mitigated, so the following planned uses are not inclusive of all future initiatives:

- **Summer School for FY22 - \$2,800,000**
Funds will be used to increase learning opportunities for all students in FY22-24. This will provide continuity and connectedness to learning for students at all grade levels K-12. The administration plans to dedicate \$2.8 million for FY22, and \$4.3 million both FYs 23 and 24.
- **Data/Assessment Platform for Schools FY22-24 - \$1,500,000**
A Data platform tool that will allow teachers and administrators to disaggregate data. It will help gather all of the critical pieces of data from reading and math assessments, attendance, discipline, and college and career readiness into one place. It will facilitate progress monitoring toward reaching our goals. The platform will provide actionable data from the district level down to the teacher and student level. A platform will support the work of all the district goals. The administration plans to budget \$500,000 per year, including implementation and staffing costs for FY 22-24.

Air Quality Improvements for District Managed School Buildings- \$4,558,559

Funds will be used to improve air quality in schools to enhance safety for staff and students. The following areas of improvement are planned for FY22 and FY23.

- **Duct Cleaning - \$1,400,000**
Contracts will be planned to clean all air ducts in FYs 22 & 23 in order to assure every facility has clean air systems.
- **Optimize Air Flow - \$2,558,559**
A Desigo/VAV contract is upgrading all air handling systems in order to optimize air flow in every facility. ASD Memorandum #132, passed on June 11th, 2021, approved the temporary use of General Funds for this contract, with the plan to ultimately shift those costs to the ESSER III grant. This contract is currently being implemented across the district.
- **King Tech HS Welding Shop - \$600,000**
A separate requirement will be an upgrade to the King Tech High School's currently inoperable welding shop ventilation system. **Scope:** Improve code required ventilation. To include removing and replacing 1-gas fired make-up air unit and 2-exhaust fans. Existing units are under-sized per

code requirements for a welding shop. ASD is currently paying UAA to use their shop for welding classes during this school year.

Recruitment/retention of hard to fill staff - \$500,000

Funds will be used in FY22 to recruit and retain hard to fill staff. In FY22, SpEd, Student Transportation, and Student Nutrition are struggling to fill key positions. Recruitment and retention incentives will help keep the most critical positions filled in order to accomplish departmental missions.

Implement reading initiatives - \$1,500,000.

Funds to be spent in FY22 for Heggerty Phonological and Phonemic Awareness professional development and instructional materials to support PreK through 2nd grade reading during FY22. Afterschool reading intervention programs will cover 8-week sessions in 30 schools twice yearly. Substitutes for MTSS data meetings to support reading and math.

Charter Schools - \$4,340,107

The District has elected to provide charter schools a proportional share of the ARP Act funding based on their Adjusted Average Daily Membership. The usage of funds will be determined by each school and their APCs but must be spent in accordance with the ARP Act guidelines in response to COVID-19. This represents the net funding after indirect cost is taken.

School	ESSER III Amount
Alaska Native	\$639,143
Aquarian	\$822,573
Eagle Academy	\$428,117
Highland Academy	\$442,682
Rilke Schule	\$1,000,629
STREAM	\$393,024
Winterberry	\$613,939

Indirect Cost - \$5,953,259

The District may charge the grant indirect cost to recoup the costs associated with administrative services that are paid from the District's General Fund for items such as Purchasing, OMB, Finance, Payroll, and HR.

Unallocated - \$91,299,707

The remaining ARP Act funds will be recommended to be approved by the Board in conjunction with the District's FY 2022-23 budget approval.

DB /MS/JA/MF/TR/AR

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