



Community Unit School District #2 • Robinson, Illinois 62454

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Robinson CUSD#2

ARP-ESSER III Use of Funds Plan

Overview

Robinson CUSD2 received funding from the federal government to assist with the impact Covid-19 on student learning and the operations of the school district. These funds are commonly referred to as “ESSER” funds with ESSER being an acronym for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief. The third phase of this funding came through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Robinson CUSD2 was eligible for \$2,509,859 to be used for expenditures consistent with the purpose of the grant: to help school districts safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the nation’s students.

Stakeholder Input and Review of Plan

Robinson CUSD2 received and integrated the input of our stakeholders as we developed our plan for the use of these funds. This input came through four general sources:

1. Each of our four schools has a school improvement team. These teams include a cross section of instructional and support staff as well as parents. Each team was asked to provide recommendations and these ideas were incorporated into our plan for the use of funds.
2. Our Board of Education heard recommendations from various stakeholders both through our normal budget planning channels and through public comments and ARP-ESSER III discussions held during Board of Education Meetings.
3. Our return to school committee (which later transitioned into a continuity of instruction committee) consists of nearly 30 members. Areas of expertise represented on the committee include education, healthcare, public health, mental health, facilities cleaning/maintenance, transportation, and food service. Committee members include a physician, a nurse practitioner, registered nurses, teachers, administrators, school support staff, parents, and members of the Board of Education. This group developed and reviews our Return to School/Continuity of Instruction Plan, keeping the safety of students and staff as the priority while maximizing students’ learning and engagement through a continuum of possible conditions. The plan developed by this group served as a guide for the use of our ARP-ESSER III funds.
4. Conversations held with other area agencies and groups with whom we partner to serve special populations including ROE (homeless) and Southeastern Special Education (special education). In addition, although we do not always have English Language Learners in our district, we have solicited input from our teachers who are endorsed in ELL.

A link is available on our Covid dashboard page on the district website to provide feedback on the Return to School/Continuity of Instruction plan and the ARP-ESSER III Use of Funds plan.

<https://www.robinsonschools.com/unit2/index.php/covid-dashboard?highlight=WyJjb3ZpZCJd>

Funds for Prevention and Mitigation

A significant portion of the ARP-ESSER III funds in Robinson CUSD2 will be used for prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with CDC guidance. These include:

1. Supplies and materials for proper sanitation (cleaning and disinfecting) in all schools and buses. This includes products for cleaning and disinfecting as well as equipment used to apply products and maintain sanitary conditions
2. Modification of school facilities to provide for better physical separation of students and surfaces which are easier to clean and disinfect. The two large projects in this area are the completion of a large new outdoor covered area at Lincoln Grade School to allow for separation of students at dismissal time and the renovation of the Family and Consumer Sciences room at Robinson High School which will allow for better separation of students and provide modernized surfaces that can be better cleaned and disinfected.
3. Air quality will be evaluated each year at every building by an environmental contractor
4. Supplies and materials will be provided for our nursing staff to conduct symptom screening
5. Implementation of GPS based school bus tracking and routing software integrated with a parent communication app which will allow us to build the most efficient routing, minimize the amount of time on the bus itself, minimize the amount of time spent waiting with a group at the bus stop, and keep a daily electronic record of riders and their locations and times on the bus which can be used as necessary for contact tracing.

Funds Set Aside Under Section 2001 (e) (1) to Address Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time

Robinson CUSD2 will use more than 20% of its ARP-ESSER III funds to address loss of learning in three general ways:

1. Academic summer school targeted toward students' academic needs
2. Extended school day services
3. Intensive research-based interventions supplementing core instruction provided by licensed teachers. This will include two licensed teachers at Washington Elementary School and one each at Lincoln Grade School and Nuttall Middle School.

Other Uses of Funds

Based on the input received, Robinson CUSD2 plans to expend ARP-ESSER III funds in the following additional areas:

1. Mental and Physical Health – this was the number 1 concern among our stakeholder groups both within the school district and in the community. Robinson CUSD2 is using ARP-ESSER III funds to employ two fully licensed and credentialed school-based mental health therapists to provide mental health services and supports to our students. In addition, stakeholders expressed concern about the lack of general health knowledge among our middle school

students. We will complete a separate health education class for Nuttall Middle School which will cover all areas of wellness: physical, mental, and emotional and employ a teacher to teach this content.

2. Language Development Support – A major concern among our school stakeholder groups was delays in the language development of our younger students which seemed to be exacerbated by the pandemic. Robinson CUSD2 is using ARP-ESSER III funds to employ a licensed speech-language therapist who will specifically work with our early learners on language development.
3. Equipment to Improve Learning Conditions – A portion of ARP-ESSER III funds will be used to improve separation of students and sanitary conditions in our industrial technology lab at Robinson High Schools and our band programs at Nuttall Middle School and Robinson High School.

Updates and Review

This plan will be reviewed at least quarterly and, if needed, updated to reflect changing needs and priorities to maximize the impact of ARP-ESSER III funds to sustain the safe operation of our schools and address the effects of the pandemic on our students.