

BROCKWAY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funding (ESSER)

- Every state throughout the country was provided federal funding through ESSER.
- Pennsylvania distributed ESSER funding to all 500 school districts and charter schools using the Title 1-A formula.
- Prior to receiving any funding each school district was required to develop and implement a Health and Safety Plan. The plan required school board approval and was then to be posted on the district's website. After school board approval the district then became eligible to apply for ESSER funding.
- The intended purpose of ESSER funding is to support school districts in their response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guidelines for how school districts can utilize ESSER funding

- Continuity of Services: Each school district may use their ESSER funding to sustain services to address student's academic, mental, and nutritional needs. (i.e. social worker, school counselor, meals during a school closure, etc.)
- Access to Instruction: Each school will ensure that academic instruction occurs during a school closure and that all students continue to receive educational services. (i.e. Use of Chromebooks, hotshots, OT, PT, etc.)
- Mitigation Strategies: Each school district may implement procedures and policies using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for the reopening and operation of school facilities and transportation services, to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff. These policies and procedures are outlined in the school districts Health and Safety Plan.
- Facilities Improvements: Each school district may use their funds to repair and improve school facilities to reduce the risk of the virus transmission, address environmental health hazards, and/or improve ventilation. _
- Lost Instructional Time: Each school district may address the academic impact of lost instructional time by implementing summer learning opportunities, after school enrichment and tutoring programs, and extended school year programs.
- School Needs: The funds also provide administration and other school leaders the necessary resources to address individual school needs to ensure that in-person instruction can occur.

How does the Brockway Area School District plan to use ESSER funding?

- Over 500 chromebooks and sleeves were purchased by the school district for students and staff to use in the event of a school closure.
- Promethan boards were purchased for every classroom in the school district.
- Hotspots were purchased to provide internet services to those without access.
- Document and computer cameras were purchased to assist teachers with instructing remote learners.
- A professional development program was developed for teachers and parents on how to effectively use Google Classroom.
- A Cyber Academy is now offered to both elementary and high school students. A cyber coordinator was hired to oversee the program.
- Substitute teachers were utilized as needed during the pandemic.
- Personal Protective Equipment, PPE items, were purchased for students and staff (i.e. masks, face shields, gloves, gowns, thermometers, electrostatic spray guns, etc.)
- Dividers for classrooms, offices, cafeterias, etc. were built to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- Summer and weekend meals were provided for our students.
- The services of a social worker are being provided to address the mental health needs of our students and staff.
- Summer school opportunities at no cost were offered to all students and the elementary school also had an extended school year program.

How does the Brockway Area School District plan to use the ARP funding?

- Purchase additional chromebooks and sleeves for our students and staff.
- Hotspots were purchased to provide internet services to families without access.
- Additional document and computer camera were purchased to assist teachers with remote instruction.
- Replace the main server for the high school.
- Funds were used to implement an elementary and high school cyber program. Cyber coordinators were hired to oversee each program.
- The services for a Social Worker were increased to address the mental health needs of our students and staff.
- Funds will be used to assist the school district with additional professional salaries. (Guidance, School Psychologist)
- Free summer school opportunities will be available for students at the elementary and high school.
- Transportation will be provided for our students who wish to attend the elementary summer school program.

- A number of our Special Education students will have the opportunity to attend the Extended School Year Program at our elementary school.
- After school tutoring will be available at both buildings.
- A variety of assessment tools will be purchased to identify student's learning gaps.
- Funds will be used to offset the salaries of our Classroom Aides.

The allocation and use of ESSER funding was in place prior to the state instituting the current mask order. The receiving of federal ESSER funding is not associated with following the Department of Health's Orders. The DOH orders are at the state level and ESSER funding as mentioned is at the federal level. The funding was provided to assist schools in remaining open for in-person instruction and to offset costs associated with the pandemic. The Brockway Area School District was amongst the minority of schools during the 2020-2021 school year able to keep their doors open for in-person instruction for all our students. It was unfortunate that many school districts never opened their doors last year throughout the country and even within our own state. As a result of these school closings, many students are now experiencing significant learning losses and mental health issues. The school district will continue using ESSER funding to meet the needs of our students and staff as we navigate through another challenging year.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Vizza
Superintendent of Schools