



ARP ESSER LEA Plans

Rockcastle County Schools, in partnership and consultation with all required stakeholders, will use ARP ESSER funding to target and support our students, P-12, utilizing multiple academic and social emotional resources that are grounded in solid research and which show strong evidence in positive student outcomes as we work to recover from the loss of instruction and in-person learning experienced this past year.

Consultation with Stakeholders

To begin this process, Rockcastle County Schools established an ARP ESSER committee during the month of July, 2021. This committee was composed of RCS school and district administrators, teachers representing elementary, middle and high school, representatives from county and state government, local business, and the medical community. Parents and students were also included in this consultation meeting, as well as representatives of KEA. To make certain that the needs of our most disadvantaged students were addressed, RCS included a representative from Christian Appalachian Project on our stakeholder team. Two members of our stakeholder team are actively involved in the local Kiwanis Club ensuring civil rights representation. A Google survey was shared with committee members several days prior to the meeting to gather their personal input and ideas. The intent of the survey was to allow each individual to express their priorities concerning academic and social-emotional needs as we plan for the new year. COVID-19 mitigation efforts were also considered in both the survey and the consultation meeting.

Results of Google Survey

[Survey](#)

[Survey Results](#)

Minutes of July 26th Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

[ARP ESSER Steering Committee Agenda and Mi...](#)

Narrative to Address Learning Loss

RCS will provide targeted instruction and academic support to all students, through a variety of print and digital resources/platforms, as well as instructional support and training for teachers. This training will focus on increasing student achievement in literacy and math, as well as provide individualized interventions for students who do not demonstrate grade level proficiency. Principals and teachers have indicated a need for updated textbooks, due to standards alignment work, as well as programs to help provide individualized instruction and interventions. To ensure that our virtual students will receive access to a rigorous curriculum, RCS will purchase:

Edgenuity/Pathblazer:

<https://www.edgenuity.com/Case-Studies/Edgenuity-Floyd-County-Pathblazer-Report.pdf> to enable students to complete their education in a virtual setting, supported by certified teachers and staff. This platform will be available for students in grades K-12.

In addition, IXL Learning:

<https://www.ixl.com/research/Impact-of-IXL-in-Kentucky.pdf> will assist in intervention and individualized skill development in reading, math, science and social studies in grades K-12.

Finally, there is a tremendous need at the middle and high school levels for updated ELA, math, science and social studies textbooks to support revised standards instruction in those content areas. This will provide equitable access to content standards for students who may not have reliable access to the internet.

Narrative to Address Social-Emotional Needs

In order to address the social and emotional needs of our students, Rockcastle County Schools has developed a Trauma Plan to address the mental health needs of all of our students. All students will complete a screener to identify their social and emotional needs. Our district mental health coordinator and counselors will analyze this data and target students based upon their needs. ESSER funds will be utilized to provide targeted assistance and support for students and families who have specific mental health needs. In addition, all students in Rockcastle County Schools will receive instruction in social and emotional learning. RCS educators will deliver SEL lessons to ensure that all students are exposed to mental health education. Second Step curriculum will be purchased and is a web-based social emotional learning curriculum that allows for consistency from classroom to classroom and from grade level to grade level. Second Step uses a research based approach that includes units and instruction that are focused upon growth mindset and goal-setting, emotional management, empathy and kindness, as well as problem solving. Exposing all students to this curriculum will allow RCS to take a proactive approach to the social and emotional needs of all of our students.

Research: ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/intervention/792

Narrative to Address Spending of Remaining 80% of ARP ESSER Funds Beyond Addressing Impact of Lost Instructional Time

Rockcastle County Middle School was built in 1970 and is in need of replacement due to both the age and condition of the structure. This school was built prior to Kentucky building code and has many issues related to the operating systems. In addition, this school structure presents issues related to school safety as well as air quality. RCS will use 80% of the ARP ESSER Funds to support the building of a new Rockcastle County Middle School that is designed as a post COVID-19 structure.

Narrative to Address the Implementation of Prevention and Mitigation Strategies for the COVID-19 Virus

RCS in alignment to CDC guidance will implement a layered approach to mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 virus. As part of this plan, we will be offering routine vaccination clinics in partnership with the Rockcastle Regional Hospital as well as providing screening testing to help promptly identify and isolate positive COVID-19 cases within the school setting. RCS will continue to work closely with the Rockcastle County Health Department to quarantine those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 or who test positive themselves. RCS will adjust the educational setting of all school buildings to maintain three feet of physical distancing where possible. Masks will be provided to both staff and students as needed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. RCS will continue to teach and reinforce proper hand washing protocols and continue to make hand sanitizer available across all educational settings including on school buses. RCS will maintain established COVID-19 cleaning protocols with a particular emphasis being placed on high touch surfaces. In order to improve the air quality in each of our classrooms, bipolar ionization units are currently being installed in all RCS schools.