



## **Local Use of Funds**

ESSER ARP grant

### **Introduction**

When the American Rescue Plan became law, it created the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER ARP) grant. This grant fund is designed to support and sustain the safe reopening of school districts and address the academic needs of students resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

ESSER ARP grant provides \$637,970.80 to Lucas Local Schools. The district intends to use this money to maintain prevention and mitigation measures, implement extended learning, enhance instructional support, provide electronic devices to all students, and expand mental health programming. Effective planning for the use of these funds utilized stakeholder feedback and input.

### **Prevention and Mitigation**

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year Lucas Local invested in various mitigation measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19 throughout the school campus, including significant air quality upgrades. The district continues to prioritize health and safety measures for our students, staff, and the community, thus additional ESSER ARP funds may be utilized for this purpose.

### **Extended Learning**

An extended learning program is being developed and implemented to support the academic needs of students that experience learning gaps due to instructional loss experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. This program allows for the addition of multiple teachers for multiple years to support student needs. These teachers will provide differentiation and individualized instructional support to targeted students. These efforts will promote student growth and successful learning experiences for students.

## **Additional Use of Funds to Support Learning**

A district initiative to implement a 1:1 electronic device program will provide a phased approach to ensure students have access to an electronic device both at school and at home. This program will allow students to readily access electronic learning materials and provide for flexible remote learning options should the need exist.

Additionally, Lucas Local is partnering with Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center to provide curriculum leadership and instructional professional development for all instructional staff. Professional development and support in the areas of high quality student assessment and high quality student data will inform the instructional practices of teachers and promote enhanced student growth.

## **Addressing Social, Emotional, and Mental Health**

Lucas Local partners with Family Life Counseling to provide services addressing the social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students. These funds will allow for an expansion of this program to meet the increased amount of student needs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and promote a proactive approach regarding awareness and early intervention.

## **Stakeholder Input**

Ongoing communication with stakeholders provides meaningful feedback for addressing the needs of students. Before the extended learning program was created, parents and teachers were surveyed to determine the best approach for meeting student needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This feedback was essential in developing a new and meaningful academic program to enhance student success. Stakeholder feedback and communication is always welcome and assists in providing positive and impactful learning experiences for all students.

## **Duration of Funding**

Funding provided by the ESSER ARP grant will have a multi-year impact on student learning. These funds will be used starting in 2021-2022 and continue to provide positive learning experiences through 2023-2024.