



Gallatin

County Schools

Believe. Engage. Succeed.

Wallace Central Office Building
75 Boardwalk, Warsaw, KY 41095
Phone 859-567-1820, Fax 859-567-4528
www.gallatin.kyschools.us

The Gallatin County Public Schools district formed an ARP ESSER planning committee that consisted of the county judge executive, the CEO of a local industry, the president of a local bank, a county magistrate, the four school principals, and our central office team. A needs assessment was completed using academic assessment data, social/emotional survey data, attendance and discipline data and the physical environmental conditions of the buildings. On-going communications through email began the process of identifying district needs. During meetings all needs were on the table for discussion. The goal is to make impacts on as many students as possible for the greatest amount of time. We want to invest the ARP ESSER funding in a way that will pay dividends for students for years to come.

Due to the small window of time districts had to plan, our district made a good-faith effort to consult with all stakeholders, including students, families, school and district administrators, educators and their unions, civil rights organizations, and stakeholders representing the groups of children from historically disadvantaged groups, the committee created a website, [GCS Needs to Hear Your Voice](#), and loaded live survey links for these stakeholders to use. This has been our most successful attempt to collect input from surveys. 300+ people responded. The survey results were very enlightening and prompted rich discussion in our ARP ESSER III planning committee meetings. The site and surveys will remain live so the committee may be able to collect current data on trends as they change over time.

1. The extent to which and how funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on reopening schools;

Gallatin County Schools is committed to providing the safest learning environment for our student population. In order to provide the safest learning environment, ARP ESSER funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies throughout the district. The district will use ARP ESSER Funds to prevention and mitigation strategies. Funds will be used for the following:

- a. Additional custodial staffing
- b. Mitigation and prevention supplies
 - a. Hand sanitizing
 - b. Disinfectant
 - c. Air quality/circulation
 - i. [Air pollution and COVID-19](#)
- c. Medical Staff
- d. Class size reduction/contact tracing
- e. Online-Virtual Option for students with significant risk factors.

2. How will the local education agency (LEA) use funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions?

The Gallatin County Public Schools district will use the ESSER funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions including Leveled Literacy Intervention, Edgenuity's Pathblazer, i-Ready Reading and Math, as well as other intervention and attainment programs.

Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) is a short-term, supplementary, small-group literacy intervention designed to help struggling readers achieve grade-level competency. The intervention provides explicit instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, oral language skills, and writing. LLI helps teachers match students with texts of progressing difficulty and deliver systematic lessons targeted to a student's reading ability.

The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) identified two studies of LLI that fall within the scope of the Beginning Reading topic area and meet WWC group design standards. Two studies meet WWC group design standards without reservations, and no studies meet WWC group design standards with reservations. LLI had positive effects on general reading achievement, potentially positive effects on reading fluency, and no discernible effects on alphabets for beginning readers. What Works Clearinghouse, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. (2017, September).

Gallatin County Schools will also implement Pathblazers. Edgenuity's Pathblazer is a supplemental, online intervention program that helps struggling learners in grades K–8 achieve grade-level proficiency in mathematics and reading. Pathblazer offers students individualized learning progression paths with fun, motivating content that addresses skill and concept gaps. Using existing student data or results from a screener, Pathblazer immediately identifies where students are struggling and provides the targeted instruction they need to close early learning gaps. The instruction in math and reading is designed to help engage students, accelerate them to grade-level mastery, and increase student self-efficacy in learning. All lessons are built around a gradual release instructional model of explicit instruction, supported practice, independent practice, and assessments. The data Pathblazer collects as students complete their work also help teachers monitor student progress and adapt their instruction. Intervention reports in Pathblazer track student progress toward standards mastery, inform small-group instruction, and help teachers plan for one-on-one time with students. According to [Evidence for ESSA](#), *Pathblazer has a strong ESSA rating with an average effect size of +0.07. Wolf, R., Cook, M., Eisenger, J., & Ross, S. (2020).*

LLI, Pathblazer and other programs will be implemented during the regular school day, after-school programming and summer school. Gallatin County Schools will use ESSER funds in the following areas:

- a. Summer School and After School Programming
 - i. Staffing
 - ii. Transportation
 - iii. Administrative staff
- b. Program materials- Textbooks, software, etc.
- c. Professional development
- d. Travel (PD)
- e. Intervention Staff
 - i. Certified
 - ii. Classified

- *Time will be spent in an effort to fully align district curriculum with the Kentucky Academic Standards. Currently, standards are being taught, however, there is not a full alignment from K to 12. This is important as we learn more about accelerated learning.*
 - [Kentucky Department of Education Model Curriculum Framework](#)
- *Develop a plan and begin to implement accelerated learning in every classroom.*
- *Because of the persistence of the pandemic, virtual or hybrid models are continued to be a necessity for schools. When students or teachers are in quarantine periodically it creates a disruption of the learning process. Using ESSER funds to maintain the use of online learning platforms will help in the effort to keep students actively engaged.*

3. How the LEA will spend the remainder of its funds?

In order to meet the increased technology needs of the district, including the continuation of a virtual school option, one-to-one chrome book initiative, and need for school and community infrastructure upgrades, funds will be allocated to enhance the districts technology. This includes the following:

- a. School infrastructure – server, wifi, etc.
- b. Additional student devices
- c. Upgrade teacher devices/workstation
- d. Educational software/curriculum (virtual school)

The district will also need to use funding to offset additional costs that have been created through the pandemic.

The district will also take indirect costs.

4. How the LEA will ensure that interventions address the academic impact of lost instructional time and respond to the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of all students?

Gallatin County Schools has developed several new supports for our students. The district has created the, *Renew Center*. This is a room that has been devoted to in-house, intensive group and individual therapy with licensed mental health therapists. Gallatin County has provided the space, equipment and supplies. Holly Hill is providing the counselors. The district has also created support rooms in schools that provide a safe place for students to go when they are feeling overwhelmed or dealing with trauma. The rooms are staffed with classified and certified interventionists that are prepared to implement PBIS strategies. We also will utilize a new full-time social-worker to provide support and counseling to students throughout the district. This is all in addition to a full-time mental health counselor. All counselors and interventionists will work with all district instructors to help ensure the needs of all students, virtual and in-person, are being addressed.

The ESSER project budget is as follows:

- *55% of the ARP ESSER funding will be used to address HVAC issues and to collaborate with the local government in providing high-speed internet to all houses within the local district.*
- *30% of the ARP ESSER funding will be used to accomplish all other aspects of this plan.*
- *15% Indirect Costs*

LEA Points of Contact

Superintendent - _Larry Hammond_____

Finance Officer - _Kelley Gamble_____

Academic Officer - _Tony Jury_____

Works Cited

- What Works Clearinghouse, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. (2017, September). *Beginning Reading intervention report: Leveled Literacy Intervention*. Retrieved from <https://whatworks.ed.gov>
- Wolf, R., Cook, M., Eisenger, J., & Ross, S. (2020). *Randomized controlled trial of Edgenuity’s Pathblazer in Floyd County Schools*. Baltimore, MD: Center for Research and Reform in Education, Johns Hopkins University.