



Academy for Academic Excellence

2021-2022 Preliminary Use of Funds Plan

Plan for Funds

The Academy for Academic Excellence has received funding through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act to provide new Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to support local recovery needs and efforts in response to COVID-19.

ESSER III includes a required set aside for LEAs. These will help guide state and local decision making for leveraging these new funds to **accelerate and enrich learning** and **increase learning opportunities** – particularly for our most vulnerable student populations.

AAE will seek input and consider information in the development and revisions of local plans. AAE will distribute a survey to seek input from various stakeholders. The survey and the plans will be posted on the Dallas County website. AAE will maintain connections, communicate with all stakeholders, and use Dallas County Educational Services website to post information:

<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/juvenile/educational-services.php#arpesser>

- Survey to secure feedback/comments <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XPHBZYL>
- Public Notice (posted on June 3, 2021)
- District Plan for Return to In-Person Instruction (posted)
- Opportunity for Public Comments at the June 28, 2021 School Board meeting.
- Mail flyers to parents/guardians to keep them informed of current information
- Solicit feedback from stakeholders via surveys, meetings, emails, etc.

AAE was allocated \$3,039,731 for the ESSER III Fund award. AAE will use \$2,431,785 (80%) to continue to employ existing staff that is necessary to support the ongoing operation and continuity of teaching and learning for students. AAE will use the 20% set aside (\$607,946) to address learning loss using evidence-based academic, social and emotional learning strategies for vulnerable populations.

AAE values student needs and maintains to focus on student achievement through:

- Face to face instructional strategies using research-based instructional materials in a safe and healthy environment.
- Opportunities for intervention or accelerated instruction.
- Accelerated and personalized learning for every student using assessment data to pinpoint learning gaps, then prioritize and adapt for precise instruction to stay on track or get back on grade level.
- Progress monitoring of individual student growth with feedback and support.
- Continue to implement TEKS Resource curriculum.
- Implement CRIMSI Pilot (identified teachers), a new curriculum component to address loss of learning.
- Implement individualized accelerated instruction using a research-based instructional program.
- Implement a zero-period to master schedules for instructional tutoring during the school day.
- Opportunities for summer school for identified students starting in 2022.

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Maintaining Health and Safety

AAE will ensure the implementation of **safety protocols** to mitigate COVID-19 by implementing the following:

- Continue to practice social distancing.
- Continue to clean and sanitize offices, equipment, classrooms, desks, etc.
- Continue to use appropriate PPEs.
- Continue screening practices and guidelines
- Continue to implement guidelines for those who have been exposed.

AAE will follow Dallas County Juvenile Department, Dallas County Health Department, Texas Education Agency, and CDC guidelines and modify plans accordingly.

Interventions implemented for Academic/Social/Emotional/Mental Health needs

AAE will address learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including by—

- A. Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students' academic progress and assist educators in meeting students' academic needs, including through differentiating instruction.
- B. Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.
- C. Providing information to parents/guardians on their child's progress.

AAE is committed to supporting the **social and emotional needs** of all students by implementing the following:

- Staff will participate in professional development so they will be able to facilitate a physically and emotionally safe learning environment.
- Staff will monitor the progress of students to identify any supports needed to enhance learning and student engagement.
- Staff will collaborate with parents to ensure student access to individualized learning.

Periodic Review and Revision of the Plan

AAE will periodically review and, as needed, revisit the plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The plan will be reviewed at least every six months and will seek input from all stakeholders during the review process. Revised plans will be updated/amended according to the guidance and recommendations from Federal, State or County Officials and will be posted on the Dallas County, Juvenile Department website <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/juvenile/educational-services.php#arpesser>.

2021-2022 Preliminary Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

Introduction

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and return to in-person instruction and continuity of services and address the impacts of COVID-19 has on students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

The Academy for Academic Excellence (AAE) understands the responsibility to make reasonable efforts to respect and protect the emotional and physical safety of every student and staff member. It is also our responsibility to provide

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high-quality learning experiences that focuses on student achievement. AAE's plan for a safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services are described below

Our primary goal is to safely offer in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible under the guidelines of the Texas Education Agency, Dallas County Juvenile Department, Dallas County Health Department and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). AAE is planning for a return to in-person learning starting August 19, 2021 for all students. Health and safety mitigation procedures will likely continue in our schools and classrooms, as mandated. As guidance from the health officials and governing bodies continue to evolve, mitigation practices may become less restrictive. Our teachers will focus on the design and delivery of engaging and in-person instructional practices, which will mirror the instructional approaches prior to the pandemic. AAE strongly believes best educational opportunities for our students is through in-person environment, face-to-face instruction.

Maintaining Health and Safety

AAE will ensure the implementation of **safety protocols** to mitigate COVID-19 by implementing the following:

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- Continue to use appropriate PPEs.
- Continue screening practices and guidelines
- Continue to implement guidelines for those who have been exposed.

AAE will follow Dallas County Juvenile Department, Dallas County Health Department and CDC guidelines and modify plans accordingly.

Social/Emotional/Mental Health

AAE is committed to supporting the **social and emotional needs** of all students by implementing the following:

- Staff will participate in professional development so they will be able to facilitate a physically and emotionally safe learning environment.
- Staff will monitor the progress of students to identify any supports needed to enhance learning and student engagement.
- Staff will collaborate with parents to ensure student access to individualized learning.

Continuity of Services

AAE will ensure **continuity of services** to address academic needs and by providing engaging and rigorous instruction.

AAE values student needs and maintains the focus on student achievement through:

- Face to face instructional strategies using research-based instructional materials in a safe and healthy environment.
- Opportunities for intervention or accelerated instruction.
- Accelerated and personalized learning for every student using assessment data to pinpoint learning gaps, then prioritize and adapt for precise instruction to stay on track or get back on grade level.
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Academic Needs

All students will return to school for in-person instruction starting the 2021-2022 school year. AAE will offer continuity of learning alongside planning and responding to loss of learning through modifications of curriculum, pacing, diagnostic/targeted assessments and interventions/acceleration opportunities. Schools will be offering a summer school programs starting in the summer of 2022. This program will support students who are identified as needing interventions. The focus will be on acceleration of learning in reading and math for grades 5 & 8, readiness skills for students in grades 9-12 in English, Math, Science and Social Studies necessary to meet EOC requirements. Staff will attend professional development to address needs related to learning loss to assist teachers in addressing the increased learning needs of our students.

Diagnostic assessment data, administered at the start of the school year, will be used to identify individual student needs. Interventions for personalized learning and enrichment will be implemented using a research-based online intervention program for reading and math that delivers targeted, age-appropriate learning paths for students. Every lesson uses a gradual-release instructional model, so students receive the exact instruction and practice they need. Data and reporting will give teachers the tools to monitor student performance in real-time and provide additional help where needed. Formative assessments and delivery will be adjusted accordingly, and progress monitoring will be utilized to assess effectiveness, and drive future instruction. Collaboration, through content meetings, with all instructional staff will be imperative to provide the instructional delivery necessary for all students to succeed. Students will receive specialized instruction and support through the implementation of best practices, which will be progress monitored for effectiveness.

Students in need of services including English Learners (EL) and Students with Disabilities will be provided the opportunity to receive instruction based on the student's Individualized Instructional Plan (IIP) and/or language accommodations. Students with 504 plans will continue to receive differentiated and accommodated instruction. Students in grade six (6) who do not meet standard on the state assessment in reading will be screened for dyslexia.

Dedicated time for planning, collaboration, and continued professional development and support based on both student and staff needs will continue. Reflection of student data and progress will be used as a means to improve student services and instruction. Administration will continue to monitor instruction and classroom/school operations.

In the event of a quarantine or school closure, AAE has a contingency plan to move forward with virtual/remote learning and instruction for all students. All residential students will receive instruction via zoom. All non-residential students will be issued a learning device (Chromebook). Students who are unable to access content remotely via the internet will be provided with hotspots and/or alternatives to be able to continue to access new learning.

Making the Plan Public and Opportunity for Public Comment

Maintain connections and communication with all stakeholders.

- Use Dallas County Educational Services website to post information
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review process. Revised plans will be updated/amended according to the guidance and recommendations from Federal, State or County Officials and will be posted on the Dallas County, Juvenile Department website <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/juvenile/educational-services.php#arpesser>.