



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

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September 19, 2022

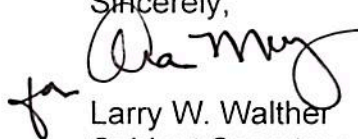
Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair
Representative Michelle Gray, Co-Chair
Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee
Arkansas Legislative Council
State Capitol Building
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: FY 23 American Rescue Plan Act Request

Dear Co-Chairs:

Pursuant to Section 37 (01) of Act 199 of 2022, I am forwarding the attached American Rescue Plan Act request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

- Department of Education – Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
– Help mitigate spread of COVID-19 at schools and continue district services
and operations \$54,830,175

Sincerely,

for Larry W. Walther
Cabinet Secretary

LWW
Attachment(s)

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 PROGRAM APPROPRIATION
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST
SECTION 37 OF ACT 199 OF 2022**

Agency: ADE - DESE Business Area Code: 0500

Program Title: American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ARP - ESSER)

Granting Organization: USDE CFDA #: 84.425U

Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 7/1/2022 Ending: 6/30/2023

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):
Funds are provided to State educational agencies and school districts to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Nation's students.

American Rescue Plan Act Program Funding

Func. Area: EDUC Fund Code: FRP5000 Direct Funding: _____
Funds Center: E65 Internal Order/WBS Element: _____ Steering Comm. Approved: _____
Continuation: _____

	Program Funding Amount
Regular Salaries	
Extra Help	
Personal Services Matching	
Operating Expenses	
Conference & Travel Expenses	
Professional Fees	
Capital Outlay	
Data Processing	
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)	
Other: ARP Grant	54,830,175
Other: ARP Grant	
Total	\$ 54,830,175

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 9/30/23

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DFA IGS State Technology Planning Date _____
Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted to DFA IGS State Technology Planning.

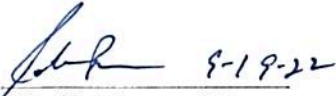
Positions to be established: (list each position separately)

* unclassified positions only

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Comt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.

Approved by: 
Cabinet Secretary/Agency Director Date

 8-19-22
Office of Budget Date
CH 9-19-22

Office of Personnel Mgmt Date

Timestamp	LEA	District	Superintendent	Remaining ARP ESSER allocation as of July 9, 2022	The district's current ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan meets the recommendations of ALC.	The district's current ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan meets the recommendations of ALC.	The district revised the ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan to meet the recommendations of ALC. The revised ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan is posted on the district website and the URL is provided below.	The district ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan does not meet the recommendations of ALC and (1) a justification is provided below and the (2) URL to the ARP ESSER Use of Funds Plan is provided.
9/8/2022 15:39	1002000	Arkadelphia	Nikki Thomas	\$3,873,027.42	No	No	No	<p>(1) The Arkadelphia School District is unable to meet the recommendation of ALC due to the ARP ESSER funds remaining, after the 20% set-aside for learning loss, already being committed to an approved building project that is already under contract. The District is in the process of building a new K-4 elementary school to replace three buildings that are on the 2023-2025 Statewide Needs List for Warm, Safe, Dry (#5 - Peake ES, #6 - Goza MS, #14 - Louisa Perritt PS). The demolition of Peake and the construction of the new elementary school on that site will allow students being housed at Goza and Perritt to move to the new school, vacating those old buildings. Due to the Division approval for Partnership Program funding for the new elementary school at \$200/SF, our District has to make up the difference at a \$300+/SF rate due to current construction costs. This is a necessary project to provide our students with larger spaces and new HVAC systems to improve air quality and meet POR standards. The Arkadelphia School District remains committed to improving teacher salaries and will continue to look at ways to do so, as well as ways to incentivize recruitment and retention of staff through bonuses using other sources of funds. We are just unable to use the ARP ESSER funds due to the building project that has already been approved and underway.</p> <p>(2) URL to the ARP ESSER Use of Funds Plan - https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3/APS/2129132/Revised_ARP_Plan_May_31_2022.pdf</p>
9/9/2022 15:04	3003000	Magnet Cove	Danny Thomas	\$367,397.76	No	NA	NA	<p>The Magnet Cove School District was awarded \$754,260.19 in ARP ESSER funds. We budgeted and planned for the expenditure of these funds as directed by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. Specifically, the Arkansas Department of Education sent out to each district in the state a document explaining the eligible uses of ESSER funds.</p> <p>It was our understanding that bonuses for faculty and staff was not an allowable expense from the ARP ESSER funds. So, in the 2020-2021, the District gave bonuses in the amount of \$2,500 to all school employees out of our own operations fund. In the 2021-2022 school year we gave bonuses in the amount of \$2,250 to all school employees out of our own operations fund once again. Also, during both of these fiscal years, the District increased the base pay of the teacher salary fund and classified salary schedules. The increases for the base pay of the teacher salary fund were \$1,999 in '21 and \$1,800 in '22. The classified salary schedules were increased by a minimum of 4% in '21 and by 5% in '22.</p> <p>We currently have a balance of \$367,397.76 in our ARP ESSER funds but \$228,500 of that is obligated (HVAC system in our auxiliary gym, new school bus). Thus, we are left with a balance of \$138,897.76. For us, the recommended bonuses would cost \$382,500, and we simply don't have it.</p> <p>URL: www.magnetcove.k12.ar.us</p> <p>https://www.magnetcove.k12.ar.us/565211_3</p>
9/12/2022 10:29	1408000	Emerson-Taylor-Bradley	David Downs	\$1,830,726.36	Yes		<p>etbsd.org</p> <p>https://4.files.edl.io/c183/09/12/22/160711-e256b239-edb1-4263-bd48-d30bc88db1a8.pdf</p>	

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9/12/2022 15:57	6063700	Westwind School for Performing Arts	Theresa Timmons	\$218,668.47	No		https://www.thewestwindschool.org/page/american-rescue-plan https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/2754/WSPA/2160462/ARP_ESER_LEA_Plan_-_Westwind_revised_82822_.pdf	Westwind revised its ARP ESSER Use of Funds plan to adhere to the ALC Peer Review recommendation with modifications. Westwind will provide a \$2500 retention bonus to its FTE classroom teachers employed with Westwind as of August 8, 2022. Westwind will provide part time teachers and staff \$1,250. The bonus will be paid in 2 installments. \$1,250 will be disbursed in December 2022, and the final payment of \$1,250 will be given in May, 2023. All staff must remain employed with Westwind through May, 2023 to receive both retention payments.
9/12/2022 20:27	6603000	Hackett	Edward Ray	\$1,541,838.05	Yes	https://www.hackettschools.org/195372_2	https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschooifiles/1548/hackettplanesserfunds.pdf	N/A
9/13/2022 11:02	2705000	Sheridan School District	Dr. Karla Neathery	\$3,042,014.11	No	No		<p><u>Throughout this pandemic Sheridan School District has collaborated with District leadership, District Board Members and available guidance to ensure all ESSER funds (ESSER I, ESSER II, ESSER II Supplemental, and ARP ESSER) were used to provide a positive impact for kids, support families, and provide long-term improvement for the District. We have utilized funds for moving to one to one devices, keeping technology current, providing remote access for families, a large HVAC project for our high school, hiring additional staff to support learning loss, remote/virtual learning, and mental and social issues for students and families, purchasing additional curriculum and providing summer instructional programs for students.</u></p> <p><u>The District's current ARP ESSER (and remaining ESSER II, ESSER II Supplemental, and ARP IDEA) plan has all funds committed. We have received approval and issued contracts/PO's for school buses, removal of old carpet, additional surveillance monitoring equipment, curriculum, programs and for additional employees (salaries & benefits) to address learning loss, including ongoing summer instruction programs. We have estimated dates for some of the outstanding encumbrances that are as far out as late-summer 2023.</u></p> <p><u>This District did pay a bonus of \$1000 to all employees during SY21 but did not use ESSER funds due to the Federal regulations, this bonus was paid out of general funds. Additionally, the District has been able to continue to provide annual salary increases to all employees.</u></p> <p><u>The amount of ARP ESSER funds committed for future salaries & benefits for addressing learning loss into school year 2023-2024 will be frozen at this point so the District can evaluate the effectiveness of the various instructional programs that had been implemented. This amount (approximately \$1.6 million) is not nearly enough to pay the "recommended" \$5000/\$2500 bonus amounts. However, the District will evaluate the ability to incorporate a smaller retention incentive, including additional salary scale adjustments, and the District's ability to incorporate any plan developed for years beyond ESSER funding.</u></p> <p>https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/27/District/2017847/Revised_LEA_Plan_for_Use_of_ARP_ESSER_Funds_Sheridan_April_2022.pdf</p>
9/13/2022 11:17	4203000	Paris School District	Jim Loyd	\$2,605,116.49	No		https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/247/district/2440016/ARP_ESSER-LEA_Plan-Updated_Sept_12_2022.pdf	

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9/13/2022 11:42	5404000	Marvell-Elaine School District	Dr. Katina Ray	\$3,433,780.57	Yes	https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/255/mesd/2421331/ARP ESSER Revised 9.2.22.pdf	Yes	N/A
9/13/2022 11:57	801000	Berryville School District	Owen Powell	\$3,436,115.79	Yes		https://bobcat.k12.ar.us/61580_2 https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoolfiles/598/arp_esser_budget_update.pdf	
9/13/2022 12:24	6052000	Graduate Arkansas, Inc	Katie Hatley	\$309,293.19	Yes	https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3282/Graduate Arkansas/2323947/ARP ESSER Revised 8-8.pdf	https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/3282/Graduate Arkansas/2323947/ARP ESSER Revised 8-8.pdf	N/A
9/13/2022 14:38	5803000	Hector	Mark Taylor	\$634,384.12	No			<u>The district was not able to meet the recommendations for bonuses as required by the ALC. The district has already given \$399,000 in incentive pay during the Covid pandemic. The district used ESSER funds for space projects. The district took the remaining funds and reallocated them to all certified and classified staff in the amount of \$2500 for recruitment and retention purposes.</u> https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/725/Hector_Public_Schools/2441310/Hector_School_ARP_Plan_and_Budget_Revised_91222.pdf

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9/13/2022 14:55	6703000	Horatio	Zane Vanderpool	\$1,640,708.82	Yes	<p>This is the link to our website homepage : https://www.horati oschools.org/</p> <p>The Revised ARP ESSER Plan may be found under "State Required Information".</p>	<p>On September 12, 2022, the Horatio Board of Directors approved revisions that meet the recommendations of the ALC. This is the direct link to the Revised ARP ESSER Plan: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Dd3QI3q7scKKwcd75xB0BecflUI5AQp/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>www.brooklandbearcats.org</p>	
9/13/2022 15:50	1603000	Brookland	Brett Bunch	\$1,311,355.40	No		<p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KTQXR72dx1rewX9_zWb9yEr0xPgfpj-ll/view?usp=sharing</p>	
9/13/2022 15:59	2808000	Paragould School District	Nick Jankoviak	\$5,954,151.80	No		<p>https://www.paragould.k12.ar.us/documents/state-required-information/arp-esser-funds/352933</p> <p>https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1167/Paragould/2441566/ARP_ESSER_Funds_September_2022.pdf</p>	
9/14/2022 7:14	601000	Hermitage	Dr. Tracy Tucker	\$992,204.56	No	N/A	No	<p>HSD provided a Recruitment and Retention Plan for the 2021-2022 school year, paying out over \$250,000 in incentives for all staff. We meet the recommendation for classified, but do not for certified. We considered changes to the plan, however, contracts were already signed for projects and expenditures have already occurred that do not allow enough funds to meet the recommendation.</p> <p>URL: https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/830/Hermitage_Schools/2441970/LEA_Plan_for_Use_of_ARP_ESSER_Funds_234934_7-13-21_.pdf</p>

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9/14/2022 8:54	903000	Lakeside School District	Dr. Billy Adams	\$5,536,581.14	Yes	https://www.lsschool.org/home/state-required-information	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jT0QuP7t1fcyu_61mW0dq9unZW7beiDg/view?usp=sharing	
9/14/2022 9:00	406000	Siloam Springs School District	Jody Wiggins	\$4,404,311.22	No			<p>1) The Siloam Springs School District (along with all other districts in the state) submitted a plan to the state well over a year ago outlining how we were going to use the ARP ESSER funds. We followed the guidelines provided by the state in developing the plan and solicited feedback, as required. The plan was approved as submitted, and we have already spent money on Hero Pay (2020-21 & 2021-22), salaries for interventionists (math, literacy, behavior), curriculum software and materials, HVAC/air quality, furniture and equipment, and expansion of CTE programming. In addition, we are currently under contract for additional HVAC, buses, construction of Virtual Academy space, and this year's salaries for approximately 20 positions across the district that were added as a direct or indirect result of COVID.</p> <p>For these reasons, the district does not have enough remaining ARP ESSER funds to provide additional bonuses as recommended by the Arkansas Legislative Council. Trying to fund even a portion of the recommended bonus out of these funds would adversely affect people, positions, and programs that were included in the original plan and intended to combat the effects of the pandemic on our schools and our students.</p> <p>However, the District did find a way to pay teachers "additional pay" with ESSER funds over the past two school years through our "Hero Pay". Every employee earned an extra \$10 per day worked each of the last two years. This amount was paid out at the end of each semester. A certified teacher who worked the maximum number of days received \$3800 in "additional pay" over these two years. We called it "additional pay" because we were told at the time that we could not use ESSER funds to provide staff bonuses. In addition to this \$3800, the district was able to provide another \$1250 bonus in May of 2022 that was possible, at least in part, due to money from the ESSER funds being used to pay for COVID leave and substitutes which saved district funds. All told, staff members had the opportunity to receive at least \$5050 over the last two years in "additional pay" and a bonus that came either directly or indirectly from ESSER funds.</p>
9/14/2022 9:38	5801000	Atkins	Dr. Lori Edgin	\$675,636.84	No		https://drive.google.com/file/d/19SwrlzVWhF1L7YigWkG9yy4XLOXyb5i/view?usp=sharing	
9/14/2022 11:14	3211000	Midland	Dr. Bruce Bryant	\$700,068.87	No		https://midlandschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Midland-3211000-REVISED-and-APPROVED-Use-of-ESSER-ARP-Funds-09122022.pdf https://www.epc.k12.ar.us/page/arp-esser	
9/14/2022 11:29	5608000	East Poinsett County	Michael Pierce	\$1,532,026.72	No	N/A	https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V9h_jSf-hry1ZN04J108T5TBjAoli-kOf3qXhXU5w/edit?usp=sharing	N/A

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9/14/2022 13:55	7504000	Dardanelle Schools	Dr. Mark Gotcher	\$2,199,528.94	Yes	https://4.files.edl.io/50f8/09/13/22/210217-d1326c93-e8e0-4435-bfa3-7737d23b1b6e.pdf	https://4.files.edl.io/50f8/09/13/22/210217-d1326c93-e8e0-4435-bfa3-7737d23b1b6e.pdf	not applicable
9/14/2022 14:03	6606000	Mansfield	Joe Staton	\$695,186.39	No			Staff and community stakeholders have been provided an opportunity to voice potential changes to our current plan. Feedback supports the continuation of the our plan to utilize ARP ESSER funds. If funds are available, those may be used to provide payment to staff for additional duties expected from the pandemic. The district is planning to provide supplement payments in the form of a bonus from district operating funds. Lnk to the ARP plan: https://s3.amazonaws.com/scschoollfiles/225/arp_esser_funds_8_15_21.pdf
9/14/2022 14:53	6602000	Greenwood	John Ciesla	\$2,857,985.62	No	NA	<p>Revised ARP ESSER Plan</p> <p>The Greenwood School District consulted with stakeholders, met with our Classified and Certified PPC committees, and sought school board approval for the following revisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ARP ESSER final allocation was \$4,179,292.65. Of that allocation 20%, which was \$835, 858.53, was designated to Loss of Learning (170). At the time of the ALC Peer Review recommendation, the Greenwood School District had expended \$1,321,307.03 according to our May 17, 2022 Revised LEA Plan for Use of ARP ESSER Funds. Of those expenditures, approximately \$620,400 was utilized to provide a \$1,000 employee retention compensation for all certified and classified employees in December of 2021. The Greenwood School District will utilize the remaining funds to meet the 20% Loss of Learning requirement, to meet the ALC recommendation by providing an additional \$4000 to certified employees, \$2000 to classified employees, and \$1000 to part-time classified employees, and for other necessary, allowable, and reasonable expenses as outlined in the LEA Plan for Use of ARP ESSER Funds, updated September 14,2022. Upon approval from the ALC Peer Review, this action will be taken back to the Greenwood School Board of Directors for final approval, and then, disbursement will take place. <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/11bEr9OE9BR59u--F3fZQgRqRWTv/r6Vh1/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D932AqIMQr9c3aYqyvoBECmBdjAix8AB/view?usp=sharing</p>	NA

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9/15/2022 7:11	2807000	Greene County Tech	Scott Gerrish	\$2,575,067.80	No			The Greene County Tech School District received a little over 5 million dollars in ESSER III funds. When we were notified the funds were temporarily unavailable, we had used all but approximately 1.4 million dollars, of which around 4 million dollars is set aside to address learning loss. We simply do not have enough funds left in ESSER III to meet the recommendations as it would take just short of 3 million dollars for fulfillment. We do, however, plan to give a bonus from our operating account this year if funds are available. It should be noted that the District spent approximately 1.1 million dollars in ESSER II money to give staff incentive pay. We have also given bonuses to staff from our operating account each year as funds were available. Link to ESSER Plan: https://5il.co/1hpjm
9/15/2022 8:58	2501000	Mammoth Spring School District	Jennie Whisnant	\$946,752.94	No		https://5il.co/1hzza Yes, will meet recommendation.	
9/15/2022 11:46	6055000	Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock	Christina Long	\$1,516,245.27	Yes	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aMGEwLfDYz1bl6V81DRnxv-gcgUbjxhr/view?usp=sharing	N/A	N/A
				\$54,830,174.66				