

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

February 23, 2021

SUBJECT:

Consideration of ESSER II Funding Uses –Summer Program

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II) resulted from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) that was signed into law on December 27, 2020. The SC Department of Education is receiving \$940.4 million in ESSER II funds. From that, our District is projected to receive \$28.2 million. Funds must be spent by September 30, 2023.

Allowable uses include the 12 activities allowed under ESSER phase I, plus three new ones. One of the three new activities is to address learning loss among students.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Schools' after-school instructional programs will commence in coming weeks. Those extra duty roles have been advertised and filled and will be paid at \$30/hour in accordance with the 2020 – 2021 salary schedule. Plans are currently being developed on the district's summer program to combat student learning loss. Early indications are that the District might have difficulty attracting experienced, high-quality teachers to participate in the summer program. In an effort to incentivize teachers to work during summer breaks, the Administration recommends paying these ESSER II summer teachers \$37/hour. The Administration recommends \$40/hour for site leads. For planning purposes, the Division of Instructional Services wishes to advertise immediately upon Board approval.

ESSER II funds will be used for a variety of purposes in addition to after-school and summer offerings and the FFCRA usage approved at the February 9, 2021, Board meeting. The Administration will bring a complete proposal for ESSER II funds in coming weeks. [This request for increased hourly rates for the summer program offering was brought for Board consideration in advance of the complete proposal due to its time-sensitive nature.]

RECOMMENDATION:

Increase the summer program hourly rates to \$37/hour for teachers and \$40/hour for site leads paid through ESSER II funds.

PREPARED BY:

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