



AIKEN COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DECISION ITEM -1

DISCUSSION - ESSER III SPENDING PLAN

AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT JULY 27, 2021



OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND INFO



OVERVIEW

- American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law on March 11, 2021
- \$121.9 billion allocated to Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER III)
- SC's ESSER III allocation is \$2.1 billion
 - 90% to school districts = \$ 1,902,210,774
- Aiken's ESSER III allocation is \$63,386,401
 - Note: Reflects revised allocation announced by SCDE on July 13, 2021
- September 30, 2024 spending deadline
- 15 allowable uses categories
 - Same as ESSER II but with more strings attached

OVERVIEW

- Heavy focus on data/results
- At least 20% (\$12,677,280) must be spent on learning loss.
- ESSER pots should be spent chronologically.
- Requires two plans:
 1. Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services Plan was due June 24, 2021.
 - Must review and revise, as needed, at least every six months
 2. Spending Plan is due August 24, 2021.
- Plans require public input/“meaningful consultation” – students, families, district administrators, school leaders, teachers, staff, other groups of stakeholders

Know the Differences

Topic	ESSER I	ESSER II	ESSER III
Enacting Legislation	CARES Act	CRRSA Act	ARP Act
Period of Availability	September 30, 2022	September 30, 2023	September 30, 2024
Equitable Services	Required on part of LEA	Required on the part of SEA	Required on the part of SEA
Use of Funds	12 allowable uses of funds	15 allowable uses of funds, new uses include capital improvements and learning loss mitigation	15 allowable uses of funds, LEAs must publish budget and in-person plan online and spend at least 20% on learning loss
Tracking of Funds	ESSER I funds must be tracked separately from II and III	ESSER II funds must be tracked completely separately from I and III	ESSER III funds must be tracked completely separately from I and II

Per May 19, 2021 SCDE Technical Assistance Session

15 ALLOWABLE USES

1. Any activity authorized by Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ("ESEA")
 - a) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)
 - b) Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.)
 - c) Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) (“the Perkins Act”), and
2. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

15 ALLOWABLE USES

3. Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population. (needs of highly vulnerable populations)
4. Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
5. Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
6. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.

15 ALLOWABLE USES

7. Planning for and coordinating and implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students, how to provide technology for online learning to all students, providing guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) and providing other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all federal, state, and local requirements.
8. Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.

15 ALLOWABLE USES

9. Providing mental health services and support, including through the implementation of evidenced based full-service community schools.
10. Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.

15 ALLOWABLE USES

11. Addressing 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 and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment; and
 - d) Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education.

15 ALLOWABLE USES

12. School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
13. Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.

15 ALLOWABLE USES

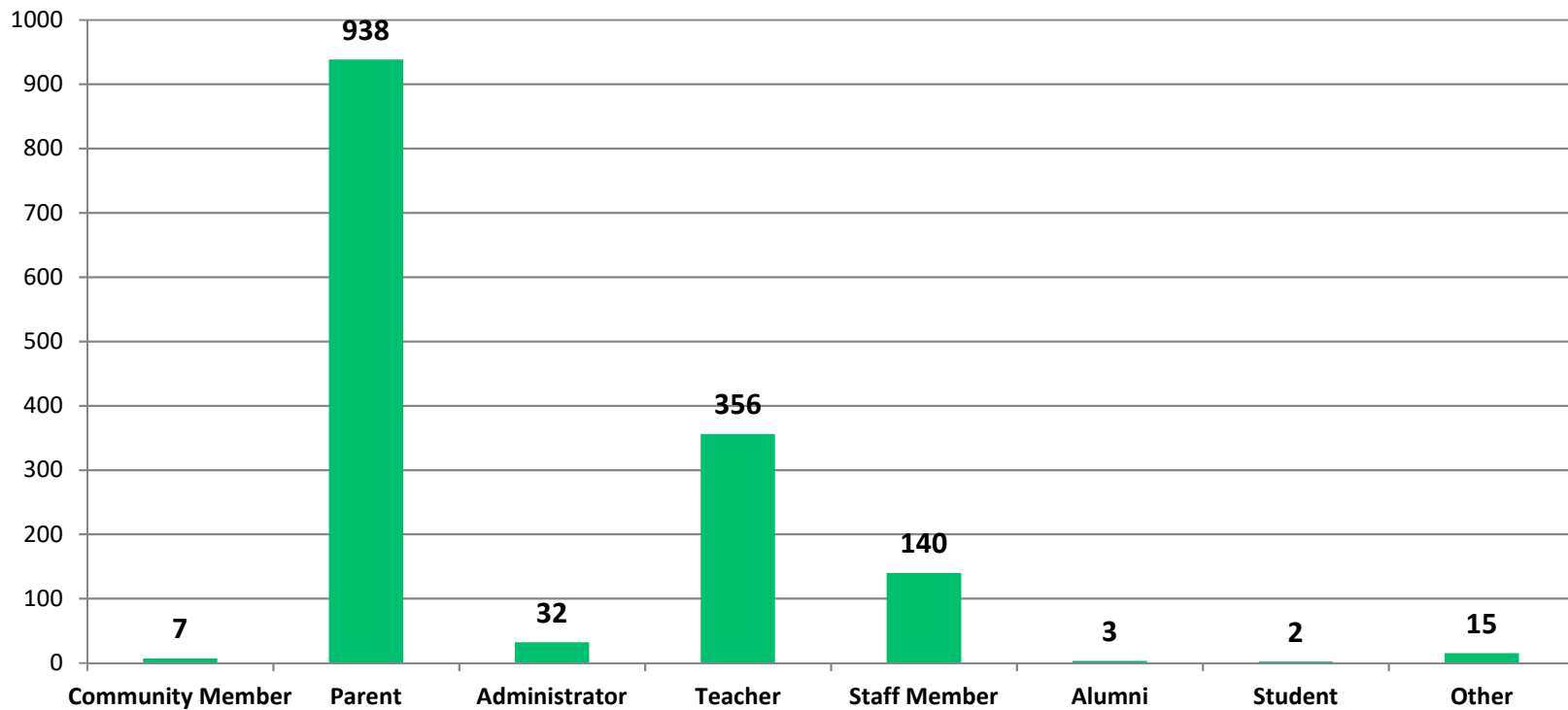
14. Developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.
15. Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

ESSER III BUDGET FEEDBACK



STAKEHOLDER ESSER III SURVEY

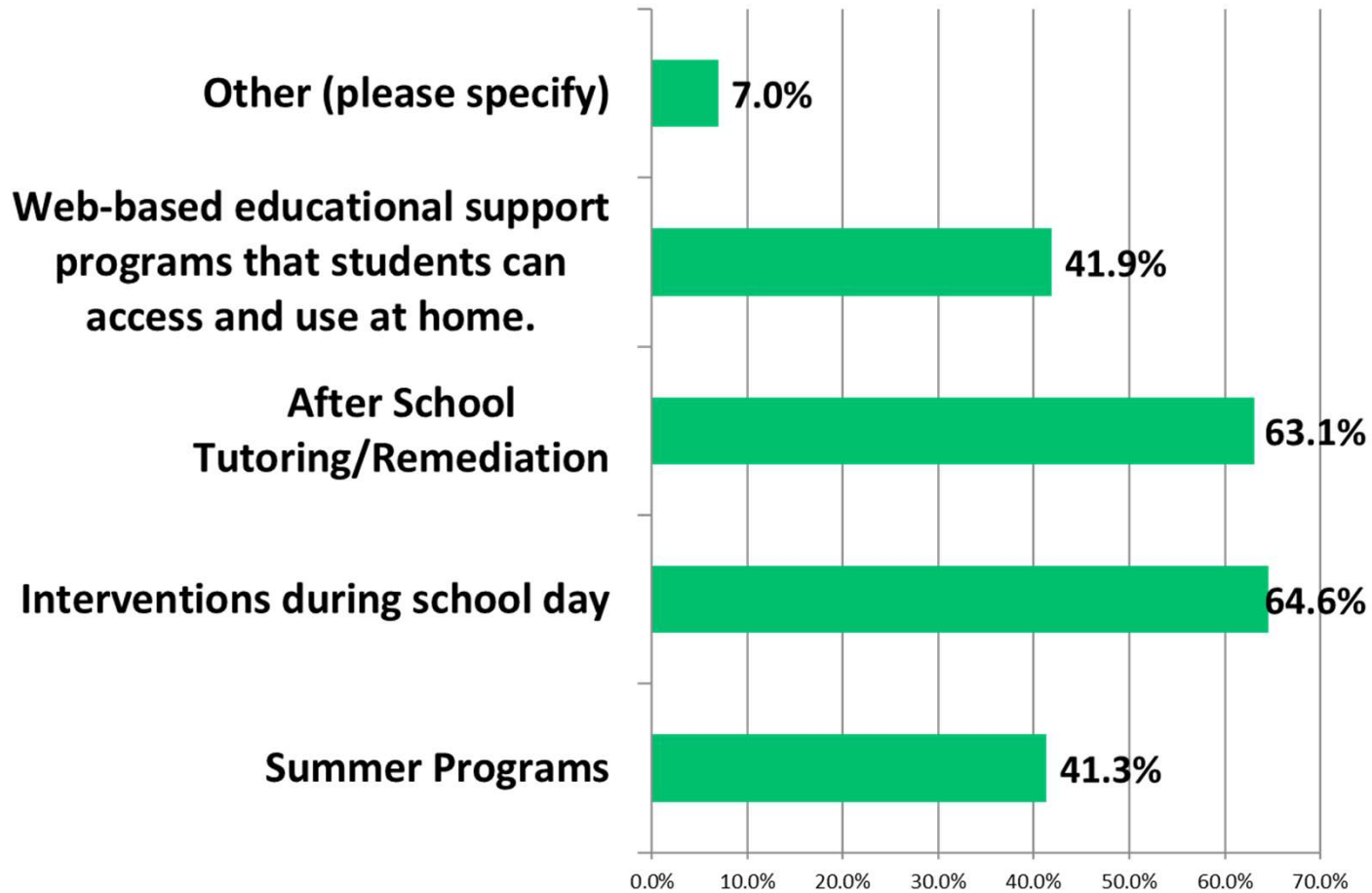
What is your relationship to Aiken County Public Schools?



PRIORITY AREAS BASED ON RESPONSES

Address Student Learning Loss	42.7%
Purchase of educational technology (hardware, software, connectivity, assistive technology, adaptive equipment)	21.1%
Mental Health supports	7.6%
Address Needs of Highly Vulnerable Populations	5.5%
Facilities-repairing and improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards	4.7%
Purchase cleaning supplies to sanitize and clean schools	4.2%
Other activities necessary to maintain operation of and continuity of services, including continuing to employ existing or hiring new District or school staff	3.8%
Indoor Air Quality	3.6%
Planning and coordinating for school to continue during long-term closures including providing technology for online learning	3.4%

BEST WAY TO ADDRESS LEARNING LOSS



OTHER SURVEY SUGGESTIONS TO ADDRESS LEARNING LOSS

- Smaller Class Sizes
- Additional Professional Staff– including tutors.
- Move to Year Round School
- Additional Reading Interventionists
- Additional Intervention Programs
- One on One—Additional Tech and internet access
- Do Not Accept the Funding

ADMINISTRATOR FEEDBACK

- Mental health supports for staff and students
- Training and support on technology / digital platforms
- Parent trainings and parent liaison to bridge gap between family and home (family literacy, family activities, technology, helping children at home)
- Additional reading interventionists / math interventionists
- Instructional Coaches
- Ventilation upgrades at several high schools
- Reduced class sizes
- Mobile health clinics for adults and students
- Professional development on understanding how poverty impacts students/families
- Full-time related arts in elementary schools

ADMINISTRATOR FEEDBACK

- PPE
- Professional development for classified staff as well as certified staff
- Water-filling stations
- New vacuums with proper filters/high efficiency
- Air purifiers for large areas
- Refills for hand sanitizer stations
- Pressure washers
- Interactive boards for all classrooms
- Technology coaches at each school
- Parking lots as Wi-fi zones

ADMINISTRATOR FEEDBACK

- Additional counselors in schools
- Tutoring programs after school
- Summer programs
- District-wide evening school program
- More school buses
- F&P Kits for every classroom
- Classroom libraries
- Translators
- Upgrades to ACCTC

ADMINISTRATOR FEEDBACK

- New Wagener-Salley High School
- Improvements to Freedman Early Learning Center
- Additional custodians or supplements for these positions
- Touchless bathroom fixtures
- Touchless water fountains

DRAFT PROPOSAL



DRAFT SPENDING PROPOSAL

1. Learning loss **\$15,000,000**
- K-2 Interventionists (includes salary and fringe for 22 interventionists for 23-24 school year, ongoing training, supplies) – **\$2,100,000**
 - Afterschool / Saturday School Programs 22-23 - **\$750,000**
 - Summer School Programs during 2023 and 2024 - **\$7,000,000**
 - Additional years on currently approved contracts for resources - **\$637,000**
 - Learning A-Z
 - Reflex Math
 - Quill
 - Marco
 - Brainpop
 - SEL Screener for High School
 - High School Digital Courseware (Edmentum)
 - Social Studies Weekly
 - Teachtown

DRAFT SPENDING PROPOSAL

1. Learning loss (cont'd)
 - Additional classroom libraries - \$300,000

New Activities in ESSER III

- Instructional Supplies, such as science lab equipment for high schools, calculators, fine arts supplies - \$347,000
- Evening School Program - \$1,450,000
- Summer and Saturday Trainings for Certified Staff on blended learning, instructional best practices, working with struggling readers, math interventions, teaching the standards, administering and utilizing assessment data, utilizing curricular resources - \$500,000 (500 teachers per year x 3 years and external trainers)
- Books for media centers - \$1,000,000

DRAFT SPENDING PROPOSAL

1. Learning loss (cont'd)

- Fine arts summer camps for 1-2 weeks in summer (including salary, transportation, and supplies) - \$250,000
- Universal Screener Contracts - \$76,000
- PD Contract for middle school for instructional coaching - \$300,000
- Behavior Support Training - \$30,000
- SAT / ACT Workshops - \$10,000
- ESOL curriculum and training- \$200,000
- Parent Trainings and Support - \$50,000

DRAFT SPENDING PROPOSAL

2. Technology funding **\$18,000,000**
- Approximately 15,000 devices were purchased for students and teachers through ESSER I, ESSER II and Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) since late 2019 - 2020
 - Devices will be at or near replacement as ESSER funding nears its end.
 - ESSER funding provides an opportunity for replacements without having without impacting the General Fund, 8% monies or other funding sources.
 - Peripherals, charging stations, cords, classroom technologies, etc. would also fall under use.

DRAFT SPENDING PROPOSAL

3. Fund the six Ed Tech positions added under ESSER II
 - 2022 – 2023 \$450,000
 - 2023 – 2024 \$450,000

4. Fund the Curriculum Technology Specialist added under ESSER II
 - 2022 – 2023 \$100,000
 - 2023 – 2024 \$100,000

5. Fund the employee assistance program (EAP) added under ESSER II
 - 2022 – 2023 \$60,000
 - 2023 – 2024 \$60,000

DRAFT SPENDING PROPOSAL

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|-----|--|-------------|
| 6. | Fund the two preventative maintenance mechanics added under ESSER II | |
| | • 2022 – 2023 | \$120,000 |
| | • 2023 – 2024 | \$120,000 |
| 7. | HEPA filter replacements | \$500,000 |
| 8. | PPE/sanitizer supplies | \$500,000 |
| 9. | Dual modality | \$250,000 |
| 10. | Indirect cost (2.83%) | \$1,793,835 |

DRAFT SPENDING PROPOSAL

11. WSHS Construction \$25,882,566
- Original structure built in 1939
 - Antiquated HVAC system would require complete replacement to meet air quality requirements.
 - There is no air in the hallways that contribute to substantial temporary differences between hallways and classrooms.
 - Limited electrical outlets are available to support current classroom technology.
 - Recurring repairs and maintenance of roof leaks, despite the roof being replaced 10 years ago, due to age of the building.
 - Poor ventilation and moisture in certain areas contribute to recurring mold issues.

DRAFT SPENDING PROPOSAL

II. WSHS Construction (cont'd)

- The structure is largely wooden and there is no sprinkler system.
- Built on a crawl space and large portions of facility is carpeted.
- The basement under the auditorium section consistently floods and holds water.
- It is believed the cost to renovate and improve the structure is less effective and cost efficient than demolition and rebuilding in place.
- Funds for new construction are currently allocated in the Five Year Facilities plan beginning in 2024 – 2025. It is anticipated the 8% funds would work in combination with 1% Education Capital Improvement Sales Tax, if renewed by taxpayers in November 2024.

SUMMARY DRAFT PROPOSAL

1.	Learning loss	\$15,000,000
2.	Technology devices/equipment	18,000,000
3.	Ed tech positions	900,000
4.	Curriculum technology specialist	200,000
5.	EAP program	120,000
6.	PM mechanics	240,000
7.	HEPA filters	500,000
8.	PPE/sanitizer supplies	500,000
9.	Dual modality	250,000
10.	Indirect cost	1,793,835
11.	WSHS	<u>25,882,566</u>
	Total	\$63,386,401

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS
