

February 27, 2023

Please find below the Plans and justifications for expenditures tied to ARP ESSER III funds. We have already addressed learning loss through our summer programs and those are covered. Please do not hesitate to ask if there are any questions regarding any of the items:

Create a Safe, Accessible, Outdoor Recreation Space

The Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind’s one playground exists to serve the entire school of 120 students. The playground equipment is showing its age – it is outdated and worn due to many years of play and exposure to the elements. Most importantly, the playground equipment and the grounds around it are not accessible to all the elementary and special needs students who use the playground for daily play. As a result, many of the special needs are not able to recreate on a significant portion of the functional playground equipment. In the previous design and renovation about fifteen years ago, wood mulch and loose bark was installed as the base material. Students who are mobility limited and use standers or walkers or are confined to a wheelchair cannot maneuver themselves to or around the equipment unassisted. It is recommended to replace the entire playground with accessible equipment and a safe, accessible playground surface. This would allow more space for all the children to recreate outside and allow better distancing, so that students aren’t crowded on to only a few accessible pieces of equipment, thus reducing the level of incidence for virus or germ spread.

Estimated Budget: \$450,000

Create Safe, Accessible, Bathroom Spaces in the Main Education Building

The Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind has multiple bathroom spaces throughout the Main Education building. A renovation project that will allow for better accessibility and a larger amount of bathroom space to accommodate students’ personal health needs is in the beginning stages, but it has been determined that the project will require additional funds. The bathroom renovation project will also reduce the level of risk for virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, as students will have more personal space using updated bathroom spaces and fixtures.

Estimated Budget: \$100,000

Paraprofessional training B/VI

Professional development to bring in paraprofessionals and other assistants to discuss all aspect of working with students who are blind/visually impaired, including addressing mental health concerns, social emotional support, tactile uses, and appropriate cleaning as it relates to COVID spread and the Blind child in the classroom. This would include engagement of Paraprofessionals in all Idaho Districts from across the state serving Blind/Visually Impaired students

Estimated Budget: \$15,000

Paraprofessional training D/HH

Professional development to bring in paraprofessionals and other assistants to discuss all aspect of working with students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing, including addressing mental health concerns, social emotional support, communication and appropriate cleaning as it relates to COVID spread and the Deaf/Hard of Hearing child in the classroom. This would include engagement of Paraprofessionals in all Idaho Districts from across the state serving Deaf/Hard of Hearing students.

Estimated Budget: \$15,000

Replace filters in HVAC to HEPA filters

Utilization of funds to replace current standard filters with upgraded HEPA filters in current existing Heating and Ventilation system. Focus is on Main Building. Administration Building and Six Cottages used as residential units for students to stay in during school year. It is believed that this will help mitigate the spread of COVID and other airborne illness.

Estimated Budget: \$10,000

This plan has been adjusted from the original submitted 06/01/2021

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