

ESSER III: Use of Funds

2021 – 2024

April 2024 Update



uplifteducation

BACKGROUND



- Uplift received ~\$53M over 3 years from the Federal government in stimulus funds through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.
- These funds are intended to support acceleration of learning coming out of the pandemic and any expenses related to returning to in-person school.
- 20% must be reserved to mitigate learning loss due to COVID19 (i.e. High Impact Tutoring & Summer Institute)
- 60% were planned for existing salaries at campuses (Academic Directors/Deans) and Teaching & Learning staff
- 5% were planned for Scholar Culture Programs as determined by students, families and staff
- 15% budgeted for (Unrestricted) Indirect Cost (rate adjusted annually by TEA)
- Our guiding principle is that scholars have access to do activities in a high-quality way, we create programs that start to build distinction in a community (e.g., a primary band program) and we have a consistent experience across the PK-12, particularly within secondary

Funding Details and Uses In 2023-24 SY



- Going into the 2024 school year we had \$30M of ARP ESSER remaining
- The initial plan was to utilize \$18M towards capital expenditures to upgrade our school outdoor fields to benefit scholars and help encourage their return to school and improve social and emotional health; this could have also helped increase high school enrollment to take pressure of our higher primary school class sizes
- Scholars and parents had asked for these improvements; however, TEA denied the request as it was deemed not closely tied to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 or learning loss
- This combined with the state legislative standstill passing any state funding increase forced us to take a different direction
- For this 2023-2024 school year, \$18M will be used for learning mitigation (high impact tutoring & summer school) and existing campus salaries

Funding Details and Uses Planned for 2024-25SY



- Going into the next school year we have \$13M of ARP ESSER remaining and must utilize by Sept. 2024
- With no state funding adjustments on the horizon for 2025, these funds will help minimize the impact to the current organization and reduce the need for staff reductions due to reduced funding
- Recommend the following:
 - 30% planned to support existing salaries
 - 20% planned for learning loss prevention programs (high impact tutoring & Chromebooks)
 - 35% towards preventing the spread of COVID-19 and maintaining school operations
 - 15% budgeted for (Unrestricted) Indirect Cost (rate determined by TEA)