



Bethel-Tate Local Schools

**Bethel-Tate Local Schools  
American Rescue Plan  
Elementary and Secondary School  
Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER)  
2021-2024**



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The purpose of this document is to explain how Bethel-Tate Local Schools will use the funds received from the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

**Reopening of our Schools Safely**

Bethel-Tate Local Schools will use the ARP ESSER funds to follow CDC guidance and local health department guidance for returning to in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Specifically at the beginning of the school year, all Bethel-Tate staff will be trained in the protocols for cleaning and sanitization. The CDC requirement for appropriate physical distancing will be followed by staff and students. Classrooms will be set up to allow for the appropriate physical distancing. Students will also be trained in physical distancing so that no matter where they are on school grounds they will understand the importance of keeping the appropriate physical distance.

All staff and students will receive training in proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Hand sanitizer will be purchased for each building to be used by staff and students. Cleaning and sanitizing supplies will be purchased for the custodial staff. As appropriate during the school day, cleaning and sanitizing will occur. Cleaning and sanitizing will also occur in the evenings. By cleaning and sanitizing the building daily this will reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Our school nurses will have the responsibility of leading the contact tracing protocol. As for contact tracing, staff members will complete contact tracing forms daily and submit the forms at the end of the school day to the school nurses. When cases of COVID-19 occur, those staff and students will be quarantined. When it has been determined that students and/or staff have been in close contact with a staff member or student that has COVID-19, those individuals will be quarantined as per the CDC guidance and local health department guidance.

In addition to purchasing cleaning and sanitizing supplies, Bethel-Tate Schools will purchase or renovate the current chillers for the school buildings to ensure they are improving the air quality in the buildings. As needed, school staff will be paid for additional hours worked to reduce the spread of COVID-19. This could be additional hours worked by custodial staff in the evenings to clean and sanitize the buildings, as well as additional hours worked by transportation staff to clean and sanitize our school busses.

## **Determining Educational Needs**

Bethel-Tate Local Schools conducted needs assessments to determine the educational and social emotional needs of each building in the school district, as well as at the district level. These needs assessments looked at college and career readiness, family engagement, curriculum and instruction, fiscal management, leadership and administration, operations, professional development, and school climate.

In addition to these needs assessments, the district is considering the amount of instructional time lost since the spring of 2020 and during the 2020-2021 school year. In March of 2020 through May of 2020, all students in the Bethel-Tate Local School District participated in remote learning daily. During the 2020-2021 school year the vast majority of students in Bethel-Tate Schools participated in in-person learning all year. To make this possible, William Bick Primary School and Ebon C. Hill Intermediate School had to shorten the school day by 50 minutes daily, and Bethel-Tate Middle School shortened its school day by 60 minutes daily. The shortening of the school day occurred at all three of these schools to allow teachers to have contractual planning time. This amounts to a significant loss of instructional time each day.

Additionally, the district had approximately 125 -150 students who did not attend in-person learning, but received their education through the Bethel-Tate Virtual Academy. The district is also considering the fact that some students were taught by teachers that were utilizing the ODE waiver to allow teachers to teach subjects they are not qualified to teach. Kindergarten through eighth grade students did not receive traditional instruction in art, music, and physical education, and our first through eighth grade gifted students received all of their STEM program instruction remotely during the 2020-2021 school year. Using data gathered from all of these sources, we determined our most important educational and social emotional needs as a result of COVID-19.

## **Addressing Academic Learning Loss**

### **Administering High-Quality Assessments**

Bethel-Tate Local Schools will determine student learning loss using the following assessments. At William Bick Primary, kindergarten learning loss will be assessed using the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) and the Educational Software for Guiding Instruction (ESGI) assessment. In kindergarten through second grade the STAR Early Literacy, STAR Reading assessment, STAR Math assessment, DIBELS assessment, and curriculum based assessments will be used.

At Ebon C. Hill Intermediate School, student learning loss will be determined using the STAR Reading assessment, STAR Math assessment, common assessments, curriculum based assessments, and the results of Ohio's State Tests.

At Bethel-Tate Middle School, student learning loss will be determined using Ohio's State Tests results, the IXL program, and curriculum based assessments.

At Bethel-Tate High School, student learning loss will be determined by using pre-assessments at the beginning of the school year to determine student academic needs, quarterly assessments, and the results of Ohio's State Tests.

### **Meeting Academic Needs**

Once academic needs have been determined, teachers will use instructional materials to teach the Ohio Learning standards. In general, this will include the use of both hands-on materials as well as web-based programs.

Additionally, in kindergarten through fifth grade, students will receive instruction in small groups to meet learning needs. In sixth grade through eighth grade, once student academic needs have been determined, students will receive differentiated instruction using the IXL program as well as through daily instruction. In ninth grade through twelfth grade, students will take pre-assessments at the beginning of the school year to determine academic needs. This data is used to determine placement of students in courses.

Bethel-Tate Local Schools will implement a variety of specific activities to reduce the learning loss that has occurred as a result of the pandemic. All of our schools will implement a summer school program at each building during the month of June for the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 school years. These programs will address student academic learning loss as well as give students opportunities for enrichment in areas such as art and music.

During the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years, Bethel-Tate Local Schools will offer after school programming to address learning loss for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. These after school programs will run all year and focus primarily on helping students improve reading and/or math skills. The after school programming will use evidenced based interventions to bring about this improvement.

During the 2021-2022 and the 2022-2023 school years, Bethel-Tate Local Schools will contract with Hamilton County Educational Service Center to have a teacher provide intervention services to students struggling in reading and math at William Bick Primary School and Ebon C. Hill Intermediate School. Using the established intervention process in each building, students identified as needing reading and/or math intervention will receive the needed services during the school day.

We will use ARP ESSER funds to purchase English language arts (ELA) materials for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade as well as math materials for kindergarten through twelfth grade students. An ad hoc ELA committee and an ad hoc math committee will review ELA and math materials to make decisions about what instructional materials to purchase. Additionally, an ad hoc committee will make purchasing decisions about science and social studies materials for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

We will use ARP ESSER funds to purchase the Achieve3000 program for use with kindergarten through twelfth grade students. The Achieve3000 program offers digital solutions that are designed to increase engagement and accelerate and deepen learning. Achieve3000 products help educators differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students.

We plan to purchase technology to address student learning loss. Additional Chromebooks will be purchased to replace existing Chromebooks that are at end of life. These Chromebooks will be used to run the Achieve3000 products, as well as other web-based educational programs.

Kindergarten through twelfth grade students will be progress-monitored throughout the year to ensure academic success. By using a variety of educational programs and materials as well as using hands-on and small group instruction, teachers will be able to better meet the needs of all students including low-income students, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care

### **Providing Information and Assistance to Parents and Families**

Parent involvement is an important part of ensuring educational success for our students. This involvement starts at the beginning of the school year with open houses and orientations. At these meetings, administrators and teachers share with parents how they can be involved in their child's learning. Parent-teacher conferences occur at various points during the school year. Parents and teachers can also request conferences on an as-needed basis throughout the school year. Parents also can make use of our Progress Book program to monitor student academic progress. Our district also makes use of social media platforms, email, and the One Call Now program to increase communication with parents.

### **Tracking Student Attendance and Improving Student Engagement in Distance Education**

At Bethel-Tate Local Schools, it is our goal to continue in-person learning during the 2021-2022 school year. If it becomes necessary to move to remote learning during the school year, then we will make devices and hot spots available to families on an as-needed basis. Teachers will hold daily Google Meets to provide instruction and will also monitor student attendance. If needed, EMIS attendance staff members will work with families to ensure students are continuing to stay engaged in learning.

Additionally, Bethel-Tate Local Schools is a member of the National Center for Rural Education Research Network. The purpose of this network is to address student school attendance issues and work to bring about meaningful improvement in student attendance.

### **Bethel-Tate Virtual Academy and Remote Learning**

Bethel-Tate Local Schools will continue to offer a virtual learning academy during the 2021-2022 school year and beyond. This program will be available to students in

kindergarten through twelfth grade. The district will purchase a subscription to one or more educational programs for kindergarten through twelfth grade students. The district will assign staff members to monitor the completion of the virtual program. If students do not have connectivity at home and/or a computer device, the district will work with these families to meet these needs.

### **Other Allowable Purchases Using ARP ESSER Funds**

In addition to using the ARP ESSER funds to address student learning loss, these funds will also be used to purchase a chiller for Bethel-Tate High School. This new chiller will improve the air quality in the building. Cleaning and sanitizing products and equipment will be purchased to reduce the risk of COVID-19. Additionally, preventative maintenance will occur on the HVAC systems in all of the schools and HVAC supplies will be purchased.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacted a heavy toll on the social and emotional health of our students and staff. To address the social emotional needs of our students, we will provide staff with professional development and materials to work with students experiencing trauma. Bethel-Tate Local Schools provided face to face instruction the entire 2020-2021 school year. As a result of the disruption caused by COVID-19, we are using a portion of the ARP ESSER funds to provide additional compensation to each Bethel-Tate staff member that worked in-person during the 2020-2021 school year.

Some of the ARP ESSER funds will be used to purchase the online programs we will implement with kindergarten through twelfth grade students in our Bethel-Tate Virtual Academy.

### **Proposed Timeline for Providing Services and Assistance**

In June 2021, June 2022, June 2023 and June 2024, all of our schools will offer summer school programming to reduce learning loss due to COVID-19. The timeline for these summer school programs will be the same each year. In April and May of each year, student participation will be determined, teachers will be hired, and materials will be purchased.

The timeline for implementation of the after school programs offered during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years at all four of our buildings is as follows. During the months of August and early September, student participation will be determined, teachers hired, and student materials purchased. The after school programming will begin mid-September or the beginning of October and run the entire school year.

The timeline for the purchase of English language arts, math, science and social studies materials for grades K-12 will be as follows. Sample materials will be requested during the summer and fall of 2021. During the fall and winter months, these materials will be reviewed by teachers and purchasing decisions will be made. The new materials will be

purchased in the winter or spring of 2022. The teachers will begin using the new materials in either the spring of 2022 or at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year.

During the summer or fall of 2021, the district plans to purchase additional technology for teachers. This will mainly be Chromebooks and Chromebook carts, as well as teacher laptop computers. These purchases are needed to replace outdated equipment and provide our teachers and students with the technology needed to address learning loss. A new chiller will be purchased for Bethel-Tate High School. The current chiller is at end of life. During the summer of 2021 we will get quotes and make the purchase in the fall or winter of 2021. The goal is to install the new chiller by the spring of 2022. This purchase will improve the indoor air quality of the school.

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