

ARP Otto-Eldred SD Spending Plan Survey



To help school districts across the nation rebuild after the pandemic the federal government established several rounds of stimulus funding. The first two rounds of funding, totaling over \$820,000 over the next few years, provided resources to the Otto-Eldred School District that assisted with preventing COVID-19 transmission and with providing the resources and staffing needed during the pandemic to provide quality instruction synchronously and asynchronously throughout the 2020-21 school year. The next round of *Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief* (ESSER) funding, following the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), is by far the largest, and will provide almost \$1.4 million to the Otto-Eldred School District over the next three years.

The Otto-Eldred School District seeks your input to prioritize the use of this additional funding over the next few years. To help inform your input, we have assembled the following “*Fast Facts*” that pertain to ARP ESSER allowable expenditures and timelines:

- May be used for eligible costs dating back to March 12, 2020.
- Must be obligated by September 30, 2024.
- No less than twenty percent (\$278,000) must be spent to address learning loss through implementing evidence-based interventions (summer learning, extended day, or after-school programs). These programs must respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs, and they must address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.
- As a matter of “best practice”, districts should not use this funding to add expenses that will continue past the 2023-24 school year. Careful planning of this funding can support a quality instructional program for our community, the safety of our staff and students, as well as the fiscal health of our district. A financial “cliff” will be realized if this funding is used to offset ongoing expenses to fund additional services or programs.

The following areas, taken directly from guidance posted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), are eligible for expenditures:

- Safe, In-person Schooling and Continuity of Services
- Facility & Grounds Upgrades
- Social-Emotional Learning, Trauma-Sensitive Schools, Health & Wellness
- Staff Recruitment, Support and Retention
- Academic Recovery and Acceleration
- Systemic Equity
- Family and Community Partnerships

See link below for a more specific breakdown of permissible expenditures:

[Summary of Key Provisions \(pa.gov\)](#)

The eventual narrative that our school district submits along with a budget to PDE to support our plans for expenditure of ARP ESSER funds must address the following areas:

- The extent to which and how funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with CDC guidance on reopening schools.
- How the school district will use funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.
- How the LEA (school district) will spend the remainder of its funds.

- How the LEA (school district) will ensure that interventions address the academic impact of lost instructional time and respond to the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of all students.

We appreciate your time to study this information and to provide meaningful input to inform our planning efforts. If you have related questions, please email Superintendent Matthew Splain, with subject line at mattsplain@ottoeldred.org.

A [Survey](#) has been prepared to collect community member input on the use of this funding.