

## Battle Creek Public Schools ESSER (ARP) Spending Brief

### I. Background

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) has presented school districts across the country with an incredible opportunity. Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) is receiving approximately \$47.6 million to be used over the next three years for COVID-19 response efforts and to address long-term student outcomes that have been impacted by the pandemic.

Through the use of these funds, BCPS seeks to increase investments in teaching and learning by focusing on supporting our staff in providing effective instruction, social-emotional learning, health and wellness support, and addressing academic and enrichment gaps within our communities.

School districts are required to reserve 20 percent of their funds to address “learning loss” caused by the pandemic. This includes providing for extended day, extended year, summer school and evidence-based interventions to respond to students’ social, emotional and academic needs. The remaining 80% may be spent on things like mental health services, cleaning supplies, improving ventilation systems and/or other strategies aimed at addressing the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student groups.

### II. Planning Process

To determine the best use of these funds, the BCPS leadership team anchored the planning on the strategic plan, assessing the strengths and opportunities to identify urgent needs. Additionally, input was collected through 13 listening tours conducted with staff, 4 key communicator meetings with community members, discussions with the Teaching and Learning Council, BCEA union input and 3 community facing town halls that were made accessible to the Latino and Burmese American communities. This process resulted in the identification of the following four priority areas for funding:

1. Safely providing in-person instruction for students.
2. Addressing “unfinished learning”.
3. Supporting student social emotional learning and both staff and student mental health.
4. Promoting systemic equity.

### III. Strategies and Allocations

*Based on the planning discussed above, BCPS is projected to spend funds as follows:*

Area of Focus	Primary Need Met	Allocation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building Maintenance and Cleaning</li> <li>Added custodial and trades staff to keep buildings clean and improve maintenance</li> <li>Ventilation system upgrades and equipment to reduce the risk of virus transmission in schools</li> </ul>	Safe Schools	\$26,283,816 55.14%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protective Gear; Additional masks for students and staff, PPE (gloves, gowns) and hand sanitizer</li> </ul>	Safe Schools	\$560,397 1.18%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supplemental staff to address unfinished learning</li> </ul>	Targeted Student Support/Services for Learning Recovery	\$4,480,375 9.4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional direct support to students to promote social-emotional learning</li> <li>Increased investment in mental, physical and behavioral health services</li> </ul>	Mental, Physical and Behavioral Health Services and Social Emotional Learning (SEL)	\$2,987,054 6.27%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curriculum investments to scaffold learning to promote and accelerate student's learning recovery.</li> </ul>	College and Career Readiness	\$1,588,309 3.33%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investments in well-rounded education and professional development for teachers</li> </ul>	Professional Development	\$2,594,090 5.44%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved communication services for families including language interpretation and and EL services</li> <li>Upgrades in building communications infrastructure to</li> </ul>	Family Services and Community Partnerships	\$941,252 1.97%

promote improved family information sharing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technology supports and improvement including internet access, devices, educational software licenses and staff support</li> </ul>	Technology	\$1,077,670 2.26%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Materials and supplies for teachers and leaders to improve instruction and close achievement gaps</li> </ul>	Supplies and Materials	\$302,210 .63%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment to close transportation gaps for students in need</li> </ul>	Transportation	\$74,338 0.16%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff, materials and compensation to find, hire and support effective teachers and administrators</li> </ul>	Recruitment and Retention	\$1,600,000 3.36%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 Contingency Funds               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funds set aside to support other needs created by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic</li> <li>Necessary expenses for supporting American Rescue Plan strategies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Operational Set-Aside	\$1,178,525 2.47%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct Funding to Schools: Funds for schools to meet their specific needs in core instruction, social emotional learning and/or other improvement priorities</li> </ul>	Targeted Student Support/Services for Learning Recovery	\$3,000,000 6.29%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investments in community partnerships to provide academic, social emotional and family supports</li> </ul>	Family Services and Community Partnerships	\$1,000,000 2.1%

**Total: \$47,668,036**