ESSER II and ARP ESSER Grant Application Trends and Innovations

as of October 21, 2021

PRIORITY 1: Addressing Learning Loss, Acceleration and Enrichment

* *Provide remote afterschool tutoring for students quarantined to protect against learning loss (CROMWELL)*
* Enroll high school students in college level courses in partnership with Three Rivers Community College to provide support and acceleration (LEARN)
* Implement an academic support and mentoring program with AmeriCorps (LEARN, GREAT OAKS)
* Extend the school day by 30 minutes for all students in Grades K-12 (EAST HAVEN)
* Provide teachers and administrators with Achievement Dashboard via EduClimber to inform instructional decisions and to share data to evaluate success of interventions (NEWTOWN)
* Accelerate and engage high school students with Summer 2022, 2023 Career and Tech Ed learning for Aircraft Engine Overhaul, Weather for Pilots, FAA Drone Certification, and Robotics (MIDDLETOWN)
* Launch afterschool program for high school students with community partners focusing on Aerospace, Engineering, and Robotics (MIDDLETOWN)
* Augment co-teaching in science by adding a special education teacher at the middle school (MONTVILLE)
* Establish block scheduling at all high schools to provide longer class periods, reduce transitions and provide incentives to teach beyond traditional five-block schedule (WATERBURY)
* Create Inspiring Innovation for Recovery Program to identify creative approaches to accelerate learning (NEW BRITAIN)
* Create six outdoor classrooms with cross-disciplinary curriculum to engage students in growing vegetables while socially distancing outdoors (NORWALK)
* Provide Academic/Life Support Coaches by hiring interns and log-term substitutes to work 1:1 as advisors, mentors and tutors for students in need (ASHFORD)
* Develop an Equity Framework to build capacity of staff to lead with an equity-based lens (SOUTH WINDSOR)
* Contract Consultant to model and coach best practices in differentiating ELA instruction for all Grades 6-12 learners using mentor texts, small-group instruction, mini-lessons and 1:1 conferencing (AVON)
* Create a publicly accessible curriculum across all disciplines (REGION 9)
* Deepen and align SRBI protocols districtwide by hiring school-based SRBI Coordinators for every school (PLYMOUTH)
* Hire Technology Integration Specialist as an instructional Coach to support teachers and students in using learning platforms (BROOKFIELD)
* Hire Non-certified staff to monitor Study Halls to free up teachers to provide additional academic lab periods (REGION 8, NAUGATUCK)
* Provide High-dosage Tutoring (PRESTON, GREAT OAKS, WEST HAVEN, ELM CITY COLLEGE PREP SCHOOL, ACHIEVEMENT FIRST)
* Create a bank of common formative assessments Pre-K-12 that align standards, tasks and expectations to the Vision of the Graduate (FAIRFIELD)
* Create Student Recruitment Campaign to increase diversity in the trades with a focus on employment for females (CTTECH)
* Identify five power standards at every grade level to ensure all students attending summer learning are prepared for the next grade level (BROOKLYN)
* Hire additional general and special education teachers to reduce class size, address learning loss and enable social distancing (HARTFORD)
* Provide World Topics Reading Program to Middle/High School students using leveled informational texts (BRIDGE ACADEMY)
* Partner with Bridgeport’s Discovery Center for science and math enrichment resources and field trips (BRIDGE ACADEMY)
* Virtual Reality Headsets for virtual field trips (MIDDLETOWN)
* Provide Universal Pre-K for all students (PLAINFIELD, COLCHESTER, BLOOMFIELD, NEW BRITAIN)
* Include Social Emotional Learning as part of Learning Acceleration
* Re-ignite Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) at grade, school and district levels to promote student achievement through effective instruction (NEWINGTON, PUTNAM)
* Provide high-dose 1:2 tutoring during the school day from external partner (GREAT OAKS, WEST HAVEN, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, HARTFORD)
* Create flexible school schedules with evening courses for high school students (HARTFORD)
* Incentivize teachers to work in high-need schools with a focus on meeting ESSA performance indicators (HARTFORD)
* Partner with local non-profit organizations to provide enrichment as part of summer learning programs (BRISTOL, NEW BRITAIN, STAMFORD, ELLINGTON, GRISWOLD, HARTFORD)
* Brown Girls Cooking and Conversation Mentorship Program for Grades 8-10 (NEW HAVEN)
* Create summer Healthy Habits Literacy Club, combining healthy recipes to cook and read for students identified as reading below benchmark levels (EASTCONN)
* Utilize NEWSELA, an online informational text subscription focused on Science, Social Studies and Language Arts with access to 5 different reading levels for acceleration and enrichment (NEWTOWN, MIDDLETOWN)
* Expand Co-Teaching Models through Professional Development to ensure general and special educators address content standards and strategies for modifications and accommodations
* Provide University Interns with stipends to serve as Academic Tutors in ELA and Math (BRIDGEPORT)
* Collaborate between Curriculum and Instruction and Special Education Directors in designing summer learning programs and intervention/tutoring during the school year (WATERBURY, CLINTON, NAUGATUCK)

PRIORITY 2: Family and Community Connections

* *Fund intergenerational activities at library to encourage community connections with school district (ANDOVER)*
* *Provide part-time athletic assistant to communicate COVID-related precautions to families and the community (ROCKY HILL)*
* Convene family information nights for families of English Learners to inform and support engagement of students and families learning English (NEWTOWN)
* Utilize Innovate K-12 as a crowdsourcing tool to garner input from Stakeholders about revitalizing education (MIDDLETOWN)
* Partner with faith-based and community partners to support afterschool education programs (MIDDLETOWN)
* Design parent engagement activities to implement at every school through the district’s Equity, Social Justice and Inclusion Committee (MONTVILLE)
* Partner with local Boys and Girls Club to provide no-cost afterschool programming for all K-5 students (NORTH HAVEN)
* Create and expand opportunities for art and cultural experiences for families to access local enrichment at no cost (WATERBURY)
* Create Family Outreach Program at each school, with team of teachers and counselors meeting with families to address attendance and engagement through after-school activities and family outreach (NEW BRITAIN, STRATFORD)
* Create bilingual Family Liaison positions to improve attendance, link school and family efforts to School Improvement Plans, and connect families to resources (DANBURY)
* Provide 6-week course to families on Dialectical Behavior Therapy to address emotional regulation at home (FAIRFIELD)
* Host ten Family Outreach Saturday sessions to inform and teach parents and families about literacy, networking and SEL with no-cost Literacy Breakfasts provided (COVENTRY)
* Collaborate with Open Mic on Education to enhance Broadcast Journalism to reach parents through video and social media focusing on diversity, equity, inclusion , SEL and Covid mitigation ((REGION 5)
* Fund Regional Outreach Coordinator with 7 districts through the Northeast Early Childhood Council to identify family resources addressing needs of children Birth to Age 8 and to increase family engagement (BROOKLYN)
* Create Teachers in the Park (TIP) and Teachers in the Community (TIC) to provide programming to students and families (NEW BRITAIN)
* Create and post on district website Instruction, technology and SEL Support tutorials for parents
* Subscribe to Talking Points or Language Line On-Demand Translation Services for 250 languages (NEWINGTON, WATERBURY, FARMINGTON, LEARN)
* Create In-person and Remote Diversity Book Club for Parents with facilitated conversations (NEWINGTON)
* Develop Parent and Caregiver Academy/University with higher education partner to provide opportunities for personal growth and skills to engage in their children’s education ( HARTFORD, ACES, WINDHAM, BROOKFIELD, REGION 9)
* Form Parent, Teacher, Community Committee to convene bi-monthly Community Forums to publicly discuss solutions to reduce Chronic Absenteeism
* Partner with local Summer Theatre and Arts Guild to provide re-engagement and connections for middle school students (EASTCONN)
* Develop Parent-centered informational videos for school-related supports
* Hire Parent Engagement Coordinators to expand home-school communication
* Form Parent Re-Start Committee to ensure parent voice in developing re=opening plans for September 2021
* Implement Parent Academies for training in technology, learning platforms and social-emotional
* Partner with local nonprofit Bridges Family Center to provide family/school supports and workshops (WEST HARTFORD)
* Create an Office of Equity and Advancement
* Hire full-time translators to ensure accurate communication with every family
* Provide Bilingual Communication Outreach Specialist
* Partner with local Child Guidance Clinic/CASA in supporting families and students mental health (BRIDGE ACADEMY, WALLINGFORD, WOLCOTT)

PRIORITY 3: School Safety and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

* *Develop Middle and High School SEL Team to create a developmentally appropriate skill and sequence for SEL instruction at the secondary level (SIMSBURY)*
* Develop Consultation Model offering district level expertise from Student Support Services in problem-solving for schools to access weekly (LEARN)
* Empower teachers to redesign student learning experiences and increase personalization, relevance, engagement and interdisciplinary activities by creating spaces for faculty collaboration and innovation in every school (MONTVILLE)
* Provide 1:1 counseling support to students beyond the school day (WATERBURY)
* Provide teachers with Trauma-Informed Training to deepen expertise and gain certification in this area (STRATFORD)
* Increase staff expertise in recognizing anxiety and school avoidance behaviors in students (REGION 9)
* Create Adult Climate Camp to focus on professional development in the areas of teaching and modeling emotional regulation, problem-solving and de-escalation (BRISTOL)
* Repurpose school-based space to build a mental health suite with areas for group counseling and individual mental health services (BERLIN)
* Partner with local Community Health Centers (CHC) for ongoing professional development to staff on SEL (NEW BRITAIN)
* Provide teacher training on LGBTQ (NEWINGTON)
* Develop Districtwide Scope and Sequence for SEL Curriculum and Instruction (LISBON)
* Provide Pet Therapy and Music Therapy (NEW LONDON)
* Embed SEL programs at the High School level as part of the Advisory period
* Address mental health and social-emotional learning by partnering with local non-profit agencies to create a Parent University
* Hire additional Physical Education Teacher to focus on Social-Emotional Learning, Team-building and Healthy Habits
* Purchase vans for afterschool socially-distanced transportation and field trips (CROMWELL, COLCHESTER, JUMOKE ACADEMY, MILFORD)
* Create Super-Flex Summer Camp for Remote Learners only to focus on teamwork and social-emotional well-being (STONINGTON)
* Adopt Connect-to-Talk Behavior Therapists for 1:1 counseling (NEWTOWN)
* Train all staff on Cultural Sensitivity and Racial Bias (ENFIELD, CES)
* Expand Restorative Practices Districtwide (NAUGATUCK)
* Hire Trauma Interventionist to identify and provide direct services to students and families experiencing mental, physical and/or environmental stressors
* Hire Head Nursing Supervisor with a focus on COVID-related prevention, education and communications
* Increase current number of Board Certified Behavior Analysts to support students with behavioral concerns and disabilities (WALLINGFORD, CHAPLIN, PLYMOUTH)
* Hire Home-to-School Social Workers to address social-emotional learning
* Invest in mental health and wellness for students and staff with Classroom Yoga and stress reduction (POMFRET)
* Hire/contract additional School Psychologists and practitioners for intensive mental health support (CHESTER, STRATFORD)

PRIORITY 4: Remote Learning, Staff Development, Digital Divide

* Work with Data Scientist to construct deep predictive data sets to inform individual student recovery (MIDDLETOWN)
* Enhance technology skills for parents through multiple training sessions via a workshop platform (BRISTOL)
* Create learning zones with moveable interactive SMARTBoard panels (MILFORD)
* Create a technology-based Professional Development Hub for teachers to access to expand expertise in utilizing learning platforms (NEW HAVEN)
* Upgrade district’s Local Area Network (LAN) and Wifi capabilities, replacing all network equipment and aging interactive displays (SHELTON)
* Provide outdoor WiFI access for outdoor learning spaces (MIDDLETOWN)
* Enable all students to complete online homework by providing mobile hotspots to families with no or inadequate access to Wifi
* Purchase wireless document cameras for staff and students to cast exemplars and work in progress
* Ensure equity in all devices, such as student laptops and classroom SMARTBoards by upgrading all school and district-based technology (JUMOKE ACADEMY)
* Provide continuous Professional Development and technical support for parents and families on access to and use of learning platforms (CREC, WEST HAVEN, PLAINVILLE, MERIDEN, NEW HAVEN, NEW LONDON)

PRIORITY 5: Building Safe and Healthy Schools

* *Purchase iWave air purifiers with needlepoint bi-polar ionization to clean the air and remove particulates (REGION 10)*
* Hire Sanitation Attendants to continuously clean high-touch areas during school day (EAST HAVEN)
* Create small classrooms for provision of OT, PT, counseling by converting areas previously unused (THOMASTON)
* Rent storage containers to store classroom furniture removed to create open spaces between students in classrooms (MONTVILLE)
* Rent tents for each school to support outdoor dining or instruction (CHESHIRE, DANBURY, MILFORD, REGION 16)
* Fund region-wide RFP for feasibility and capacity study of safe and healthy elementary schools (DEEP RIVER)
* Conduct Cyber Audit to ensure safety of Internet and Wifi (NORWICH FREE ACADEMY)
* Replace all water fountains with Water Bottle Filling Stations (COLCHESTER, NORTH HAVEN)
* Construct outdoor Pavilion for Classroom spaces with Wifi access and security cameras for safety (REGION 5)
* Construct Science Lab and Music Room to increase physical space and align to school’s theme (INTERDISTRICT SCHOOL FOR ARTS AND COMMUNICATION)
* Purchase disposable clear masks for Speech and Language Clinicians to use with students with speech and language disabilities (WALLINGFORD)
* Utilize input from engineers and HVAC specialists, the district will prioritize and implement changes needed to update ventilation systems at all schools to specifications (SHELTON, MILFORD)