

Federal COVID Funding vs. MCPS Operating Budget

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund was originally established in the CARES Act in March 2020 and extended through two additional acts of Congress to provide funding to public schools for relief from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Allowable Uses of ESSER Funding: Congress authorized more than a dozen various allowable uses of ESSER funding in responding to the pandemic. Examples of allowable uses include (1) addressing unique needs of low income students, students with disabilities, and English language learners; (2) training and development; (3) purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean school facilities; (4) purchasing educational technology; (5) providing mental health supports: summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs; (6) addressing learning loss; (7) school facility repairs and improvements to reduce the risk of virus transmission; (8) inspecting, testing, maintaining, repair, replacement and upgrade of projects to improve air quality; and (9) other activities to maintain the operation and continuity of services.



ESSER grants are “unbudgeted” in that they are one-time funding and are not included in the development of the Operating Budget in the fiscal year they were received (FY20 – FY 22) unlike Titles I-IV, which are budgeted.

Aligning ESSER to the MCPS Strategic Plan

MCPS Identified Eight Program or Functional Areas of ESSER Funding:



Summer School



Staffing Resources



Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) and Well-being



Tutoring/Interventions/Enrichments



Technology



Operations



Professional Learning



Virtual Academy



ESSER Funding Areas

ESSER FUNDING AREA	ITEM	IN MILLIONS (\$)
Virtual Academy	Virtual Academy including special education	\$25.6
Operations	HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) infrastructure, equipment, materials, contractual	\$11.6
	COVID testing	\$5.0
	Food Services Reimbursement (March 2020 - June 2021)	\$20.6
	PPE (personal protective equipment)/Water bottle filling stations	\$11.0
Professional Learning	Professional development/Stipends	\$12.7
	Professional development for mental well-being and student engagement	\$28.8
Staffing Resources	20 FTE (full-time equivalent) Counselors for high needs schools	\$6.7
	18 FTE Counselors for well-being and support	\$6.0
	Support for students in quarantine	\$0.5
	6 FTE ASAs (assistant school administrators) and 2 FTE fully released teachers for single administrator schools	\$2.9
	50 FTE Social Workers	\$11.8
	Recruitment and Retention Incentive for Staff	\$29.3
Summer School	Summer School (incl. special education)	\$56.9
Technology	Technology for most poverty impacted schools	\$18.2
	Technology for remote and in-person learning	\$40.0
Tutoring/Intervention/Enrichments	Tutoring before/after school	\$69.0
	Strategic Partnerships (i.e. Lavinia Group, Kids Museum)	\$10.5
SEL and Well-being	Social Emotional Learning Curriculum	\$15.0
	Diversion Program	\$0.6
	Wellness coordinators/coaches	\$3.7
	Social Emotional Engagement through Sports for middle schools	\$0.8
Total		\$387.2

This table reflects the spending plan for ESSER and may be adjusted as MCPS is responsive to the specific needs of the district.