

The Vista School

School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds

Approved May 13, 2022

Section: Narratives - Assessing Impacts and Needs

SCHOOL ENTITY ARP ESSER APPLICATION

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) recognizes the extraordinary efforts made by School Entities, schools, and educators to support students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The application below requests information from School Entities about: (1) Needs and impacts resulting from the pandemic, (2) Stakeholder engagement in the development of plans to respond to these needs and impacts, (3) Specific elements in the School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds; and (4) Plans for monitoring and measuring progress. As submitted and accepted by PDE in final form, this application shall become part of the Grant Agreement for ARP ESSER funds as Appendix B. As used in this application, "School Entity" refers to the Grantee defined in the Grant Agreement.

ARP ESSER includes a significant focus on vulnerable student populations. Given these requirements, as well as PDE's own equity commitments, the School Entity application includes specific fields requesting information on programs to serve student groups that have experienced disproportionate impacts from the pandemic. Student groups are inclusive of the following:

- Students from low-income families;
- Students from each racial or ethnic group (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by race or ethnicity);
- Gender (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by gender);
- English learners;
- Children with disabilities (including infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA]);
- Students experiencing homelessness;
- Children and youth in foster care;
- Migrant students; and
- Other groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic that have been identified by the School Entity (e.g., youth involved in the criminal justice system, students who have missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures, and LGBTQ+ students).

Section I: Assessing Impacts and Needs

In this first section, School Entities are asked to describe the impact of the pandemic on their students, examine disproportionate impacts on specific student groups, and highlight the School Entity's promising practices in supporting student needs since March 2020.

Indicators of Impact

1. Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Describe how the School Entity has identified or will identify the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and well-being. Specifically, what methods (i.e., collecting and analyzing data and information from focus groups, surveys, and local assessment results) were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts in four key areas: (1) Academic impact of lost instructional time, (2) Chronic absenteeism, (3) Student engagement, and (4) Social-emotional well-being?

	Methods Used to Understand Each Type of Impact
Academic Impact of Lost Instructional Time	Historical review of pre-COVID data; data collected from lessons conducted with platforms such as Vizzle, Unique Learning System and Nearpod; fidelity checks with parents/caregivers
Chronic Absenteeism	Continued use of Attendance Tracker, as well as documentation of attendance for any distance learning or blended instruction
Student Engagement	Surveys with parents/caregivers; comparison of baseline data to data collected through progress monitoring and progress reports; in-person assessments when possible
Social-emotional Wellbeing	Surveys and frequent discussion with parents/caregivers; training staff to observe students closely for distress, change in behaviors, and/or change in physical appearance
Other Indicators	

Documenting Disproportionate Impacts

2. Identify the student groups in the School Entity that faced particularly significant impacts from the pandemic. For each, provide specific strategies that were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts.

Student Group	Provide specific strategies that were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts
Children with disabilities (including infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act [IDEA])	Vista staff collect data and monitor the progress of each of our students on a daily basis through Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Through the extended school closure (and for any future extended school closures), additional measurements were created to help gauge not only the effect of the closure itself on a student's progress but also the impact of our methods to mitigate any negative effects. Examples of these measurements include data collected through progress monitoring; comparisons of baseline academic and functional performance to the level of performance during and after a shutdown; results from informal and/or formal assessments; information and observations from teachers, related service providers, and families; and parent surveys

Reflecting on Local Strategies

3. Provide the School Entity's assessment strategy that has been most effective in supporting the needs of students, in particular specific student groups most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Strategies two and three below are optional.

	Strategy Description
Strategy #1	With the complexities unique to each individual we serve, the continued collection of data and progress monitoring on a daily basis through IEPs has been the most effective way for us to support each student in the way that works best for them. As our students have been impacted to varying degrees, the IEP process is critical in identifying any skill regression, the impact from losing any instructional time, difficulties in attending sessions, social/emotional issues, and their ability to make progress on goals.

i. Impacts that Strategy #1 best addresses: (select all that apply)

- Academic impact of lost instructional time
- Chronic absenteeism
- Student engagement
- Social-emotional well-being
- Other impact

ii. If Other is selected above, please provide the description here:

iii. Student group(s) that Strategy #1 most effectively supports: (select all that apply)

- Students from low-income families
- Students from each racial or ethnic group (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by race or ethnicity)
- Gender (e.g., identifying disparities and focusing on underserved student groups by gender)
- English learners
- Children with disabilities (including infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA))
- Students experiencing homelessness
- Children and youth in foster care
- Migrant students
- Other student groups: (provide description below)

iv. If Other is selected above, please provide the description here.

Reflecting on Local Strategies: Strategy #2 (Not Applicable)

Reflecting on Local Strategies: Strategy #3 (Not Applicable)

Section: Narratives - Engaging Stakeholders in Plan Development

Section II: Engaging Stakeholders in Plan Development

In this second section, School Entities are asked to provide information on how stakeholders will be engaged in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, how stakeholder input will be utilized, and how the School Entity will make its School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds transparent to the public—all critical components in developing, implementing, and adjusting plans based on the differential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

Describe how the School Entity, in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, has engaged or will engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders.

(Stakeholders include students; families; LEA representation, School Entity teachers; School Entity principals; School Entity leaders; other educators; school staff; and unions. In addition, to the extent that the following groups are present in or served by the School Entity, stakeholders also include community partners, civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migrant students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students; and tribes.)

We consistently rely on the collaboration of our stakeholders with a variety of perspectives in order to ensure we have a sound and comprehensive strategic plan. For planning the use of ARP ESSER funds, we have and will engage our leadership staff, teachers, classroom staff, administrative staff, and families.

5. Use of Stakeholder Input

Describe how the School Entity has taken or will take stakeholder and public input into account in the development of the School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds.

Our teachers and classroom staff will be critical in determining the most effective ways to impact their daily activities in the classroom that have been affected by the pandemic. Input from families can help guide staff by advising on technology and other items that have been beneficial to use with their student(s). Additionally, surveys have been conducted with staff and families to identify ways to improve working conditions and communication across the organization.

6. Public Access to LEA Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds

Describe the process for development, approval, and making public the School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds. The School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds must be made publicly available on the School Entity website and submitted to PDE within 90 days of School Entity receipt of ARP ESSER funding, must be written in a language that parents/caregivers can understand, and must be provided in alternate format upon request by a parent/caregiver who is an individual with a disability.

Vista stakeholders will collaborate on the development of the School Entity Plan for the Use of ARP ESSER Funds. Once the plan is finalized and approved by our Executive Director of Educational Services, the plan will be made available on our website: www.vistaautismservices.org.

Section: Narratives - Plan for ARP ESSER Funds

Section III: Plan for ARP ESSER Funds

In this third section, School Entities are asked to reflect on both the impacts and needs described in Section I and stakeholder engagement described in Section II to provide a description of the School Entity plan for the use of ARP ESSER funds, that address the impact of lost instructional time as required by section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act.

7. Plan for Funds

How will the School Entity spend its ARP ESSER funds as outlined in the fields below? Please select from the options below and provide an explanation.

1. Continuity of Services: How will the School Entity use ARP ESSER funds to sustain services to address students' academic needs; students' and staff social, emotional, and mental health needs; and student nutrition and food services, as applicable?
2. Access to Instruction: How will the School Entity use ARP ESSER funds to support the goals of increasing opportunity to learn and equity in instructional delivery, as applicable? Consider regular attendance/chronic absenteeism data from the 2020-21 school year, including data disaggregated by student groups, in developing the response.
3. Mitigation Strategies: How will the School Entity use ARP ESSER funds to support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities and transportation services to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, as applicable? Consider the School Entity's Health and Safety Plan in developing the response.
4. Facilities Improvements: How will the School Entity use ARP ESSER funds to repair and improve school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission, address environmental health hazards, and/or improve ventilation? Consider the School Entity's Health and Safety Plan in developing the response.
5. Staff Recruitment, Support, and Retention: How will the School Entity use ARP-ESSER funds to maintain staff and provide professional training and/or improve working conditions for staff?
6. Other, Summer School, Extended Day, Other Student Programs

Plan for Funds	Explanation
Access to Instruction	Students with moderate to severe autism need consistent instruction to prevent skill regression and to minimize the loss of progress. In order to continue providing these critical services to students when remote instruction is necessary, we will invest in additional technology, including devices, protective cases, and curriculum subscriptions. Many of our families cannot afford their own devices or applications. If remote instruction is needed, we will ensure that students have access to the technology and curriculum subscriptions they need to receive quality services.

Staff Recruitment, Support, and Retention	We have and will continue to focus on supporting our staff as much as possible through this difficult period. We are committed to improving working conditions for our staff through increased communication technology, professional development, training, recognition, and more to retain and reward our valued staff.
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Section: Narratives - Monitoring and Measuring Progress

Section IV: Monitoring and Measuring Progress

In this fourth section, School Entities are asked to describe efforts to build local capacity to ensure high-quality data collection and reporting to safeguard funds for their intended purposes.

8. Capacity for Data Collection and Reporting

School Entities must continuously monitor progress and adjust strategies as needed. Describe the LEA’s capacity and strategy to collect and analyze data (disaggregated by student group, where applicable), for each of the following measures:

	Data Collection and Analysis Plan (including plan to disaggregate data)
Student learning, including academic impact of lost instructional time during the COVID-19 pandemic	All of Vista's students have a diagnosis of autism, and many have additional disabilities. All of our methods are data-driven and evidence-based, and we will continue utilizing these methods as we assess the impact of lost instructional time during the pandemic. We collect and monitor the progress of each student on a daily basis through IEPs, and also created additional measures, including comparisons of baseline and post-shutdown academic and functional performance, informal and formal assessments, and information/observations from teachers, service providers, and families.
Opportunity to learn measures	We have a robust Quality, Training and Research department that tracks data on the effectiveness of training and use of technology for staff, students and families. Surveys are also conducted, and the data is analyzed to impact future strategies.
Jobs created and retained (by number of FTEs and position type)	Any funds used toward creating positions will be tracked and monitored to ensure they are effective and financially sound. We will not be adding FTEs as a result of this grant.
Participation in programs funded by ARP ESSER resources (e.g., summer and afterschool programs)	Attendance and participation are closely tracked across all programs and for each individual student.

Section: Narratives - ARP ESSER Prior Approval

ARP ESSER PRIOR APPROVAL

School Entities that wish to expend ESSER funds on facilities initiatives may be permitted to:

- make facility upgrades to comply with American Disabilities Act requirements
- upgrade HVAC systems
- remediate mold, lead, and other sources of poor indoor air quality
- install mechanical ventilation and/or advanced filtration systems
- replace windows to allow for improved intake of fresh air
- replace plumbing to ensure safe drinking water—among other upgrades that improve the health and safety of school buildings.

All capital expenditures supported with federal funds must be pre-approved by PDE. Capital expenditures means expenditures to acquire capital assets (i.e., land, facilities, or equipment over \$5,000 per unit) or expenditures to make additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations, or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life.

Construction means (A) the preparation of drawings and specifications for school facilities; (B) erecting, building, acquiring, altering, remodeling, repairing, or extending school facilities; (C) inspecting and supervising the construction of school facilities; and (D) debt service for such activities (ESEA section 7013(3), 20 U.S.C. § 7713(3)).

Directions: School Entities seeking prior approval for Construction/Renovation or Other Capital Expenditures must:

Complete the form for each contractor/project that will be supported with ARP ESSER funds. If using multiple vendors for one project, i.e., classroom expansion, enter total cost per vendor to equal the total budgeted cost of the “classroom expansion” project. Completed forms must be uploaded to this section. Prior to uploading forms, they must be signed off by your School Entity's Superintendent/CEO/Executive Director.

Will you be using a portion of your ARP ESSER funds for Construction and/or Other Capital Expenditures? No

Section: Narratives - Health and Safety Plan Upload and URL

SCHOOL ENTITY HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN AND URL

Please upload your School Entity Health and Safety Plan and website URL below. Check the assurance indicating that you have completed your upload. Please name the file using your School Entity name followed by Health and Safety Plan. example: "School Entity Name-Health and Safety Plan"

School Entities are required to add the URL where the approved plan will be posted to the School Entity's public website. Please add the URL below.

<https://www.vistaautismservices.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/The-Vista-School-Healthand-Safety-Plan-9.7.21.pdf?x31851>

Section: Budget - Instruction Expenditures

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Budget

\$85,488.00

Allocation

\$85,488.00

Budget Over(Under) Allocation

\$0.00

INSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES

Function	Object	Amount	Description
1200 - SPECIAL PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	600 - Supplies	\$16,858.00	Increased number of instructional devices across all classrooms to improve access to instruction and continuity of services
1200 - SPECIAL PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	600 - Supplies	\$22,000.00	Upgraded curriculum subscriptions for both in-person instruction and to ensure continuity of services if there is a future need for remote learning.
		\$38,858.00	

Section: Budget - Support and Non-Instruction Expenditures

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Budget

\$85,488.00

Allocation

\$85,488.00

Budget Over(Under) Allocation

\$0.00

SUPPORT AND NON-INSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES

Function	Object	Amount	Description
2200 - Staff Support Services	600 - Supplies	\$15,000.00	Supporting staff by improving working conditions through communication technology, professional development, training, recognition, etc.
2200 - Staff Support Services	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	\$3,850.00	Registration fees for 22 teachers to attend the Penn State autism conference. This will be a significant impact for recruiting and retention purposes and will also ensure our staff learns as much as they can about our student population who all have a diagnosis of autism.
2200 - Staff Support Services	500 Other Purchased Services	\$23,780.00	Travel, lodging, and meals for 22 teachers to attend the Penn State autism conference
2800 Central Support Services	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	\$3,000	Teacher certifications to promote retention and professional development
2800 Central Support Services	500 Other Purchased Services	\$1,000	Recruiting event geared towards special educators and behavioral staff
		\$46,630.00	

Section: Budget - Budget Summary

BUDGET SUMMARY

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
1000 Instruction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1100 REGULAR PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1200 SPECIAL PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$38,858.00	\$0.00	\$38,858.00
1300 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1400 Other Instructional Programs – Elementary / Secondary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1600 * ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1700 Higher Education Programs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1800 Pre-K	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2000 SUPPORT SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2100 SUPPORT SERVICES – STUDENTS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2200 Staff Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,850.00	\$0.00	\$23,780.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$42,630.00

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
2300 SUPPORT SERVICES – ADMINISTRATION	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2400 Health Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2500 Business Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2600 Operation and Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2700 Student Transportation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2800 Central Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
3000 OPERATION OF NONINSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3100 Food Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3200 Student Activities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3300 Community Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4000 FACILITIES ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,850.00	\$0.00	\$24,780.00	\$53,858.00	\$0.00	\$85,488.00
Approved Indirect Cost/Operational Rate:								\$0.00

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
Final								\$85,488.00