



American rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Formula Fund Grant

The U.S. Department of Education requires each school that receives ARP ESSER III funds to submit a plan that describes how it will use the funds. This plan is published to the Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County's school website.

Introduction

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County has been awarded \$254,930.00 in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to Tina Williams, Director of the Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County, at (989) 343-9070 or twilliams@ioscoresa.net

The primary goal of the Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County is to safely offer in-person learning for all students in alignment with guidelines and recommendations from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the Michigan Health Department (District #2), and the Michigan Department of Education. Our learning lab locations will be open full-time, according to the 2021-2022 school calendar, beginning August 30, 2021.

Understandably, some families may prefer a virtual-only learning environment while the threat of COVID persists. To that end, the Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County is providing the opportunity for students in grades six through twelve to attend school remotely, full-time. These students will have the same expectations of attendance required of students attending the learning labs in person. AEA teachers will be available by appointment to meet virtually with remote students via Google Meets or Zoom as well as to provide assistance through LMS messaging, phone conferencing, and/or established communication systems between the student and school.

Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

ARP Act ESSER III funds may be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance and Michigan Health Department guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning. The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County will use funds to support the

health and safety of our school community. Funds will be used to support distance learning in order to continue educational opportunities for our students who are in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19. Providing computers and internet devices to our students will support mitigation strategies related to social distancing and maintaining CDC compliance, leading to in-person education for our students.

In addition to the provision of educational technology, the Alternative Educational Academy will be making building improvements to increase the airflow in the classrooms and offices, further mitigating the potential spread of COVID-19.

The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County will use approximately \$49,748.00 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies.

Addressing Unfinished Learning

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each district to use twenty percent of its formula funds to address the academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs. The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County will use funds to support a summer school education program that will provide additional instruction time beyond the 180-day school year. The summer school program will be available to all AEA students but will target those identified in need of additional supports/instructional time as well as those who have fallen behind their cohort.

The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County will use approximately \$64,938.00 of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to address learning loss among students.

Students experiencing loss of learning and engagement will be identified using Student Achievement software and high-quality assessments. Designated staff will monitor attendance, communication, and achievement data and coordinate student intervention team meetings culminating in the development of individualized student intervention plans leading to increased learning and engagement.

The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County will use approximately \$92,444.00 of its ARP Act ESSER III Funds to identify, plan, and monitor intervention strategies addressing the loss of learning and engagement.

Other Use of Funds

Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act permits schools to use the ARP Act ESSER III funding not reserved to address unfinished learning to address the impacts of COVID-19 in a variety of ways. The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County will use approximately \$40,000.00 of its ARP Act ESSER II funds in accordance with Section 2001(e) of the ARP Act as described below.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a greater number of students attending school solely online. In an effort to support the transition back to in-person learning, the Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County will improve school facilities and school grounds to create an outdoor learning environment centered around student engagement and physical activity. By promoting outdoor activities, we will provide greater opportunities for students to be outside in the fresh air and social distancing while increasing student motivation to attend school in person. Should all of these designated funds not be spent, staff initiatives that support the continuation of learning and student engagement or re-engagement with the school will be implemented.

Addressing Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs

The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County serves learners, grades 6-12, who for whatever reason, have not been successful in a traditional school setting. Typically, our students face multiple barriers to their education. While the pandemic has been difficult for all students, some of the AEA students have suffered greatly due to the additional pre-existing barriers. The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County is committed to providing additional academic, social, emotional, and mental health supports to meet the needs of our students. While increasing academic monitoring, mental health screenings, and community partner supports, we have also set aside funds to provide additional social work services during our summer session in the amount of \$7,800.00.

Consultation with Stakeholders and Opportunity for Public Comment

In developing the ARP ESSER Plan, the Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County sought input from employees, administration, students, families, board members, and the general public. By completing online surveys and through public discussions during regularly scheduled board meetings, stakeholders provided their thoughts on school priorities related to learning loss and the unique academic and emotional needs of students brought on by COVID-19. Survey and meeting minutes guided the discussion and planning for use of ESSER III funds.

Making the Plan Available to the Public

The Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County is making this plan available to the public by:

- Posting the plan on the school website: www.ogemawaea.net
- Presenting an overview of the plan at school board meetings
- Providing translations and alternate formats for individuals with a disability as defined by the ADA

Requests for alternate formats of the plan or translated documents should be made to the Director at williams@ioscoresa.net or by calling the school at 989-343-9070.