Maine School Administrative District No.33 (MSAD 33)



American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER - Use of Funds Plan

Last Review: January 2024

About the American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER Funds

- The American Rescue plan allocated $122.8 billion dollars to Schools nationwide.
- Maine's allocation was $411,303,280, with $370,172,954 going directly to the school districts.
- Maine School Administrative District No. 33's Share is $442,254.
  - At least 20% ($88,451) of the MSAD33 allocation must be set aside to address learning loss created by COVID19.
  - The remaining funds ($294,836) can be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The funding can be used for the 2021-22 school year, the 2022-23 school year, and the 2023-24 school year, not to exceed September 30, 2024.

Allowable Uses of Funds

Examples:

- Enable districts to enact appropriate measures to help schools implement mitigation strategies consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools to the greatest extent practicable (building repairs, air quality control, etc.)
- Address the many impacts of COVID-19 on students, including from interrupted instruction;
- Implement strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs; offer crucial evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs;
- Support early childhood education; invest in staff capacity;
- and avoid devastating layoffs, ensuring that all students have access to teachers, counselors, and other school personnel to support their needs.

Disallowable Use of Funds

- Funds cannot replace/supplant anything in the regular school budget.
- Funds cannot be applied to anything unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Example 1: Paying for this winter's heating oil costs would not be allowable.

Example 2: Paying for regular administrator or regular teacher salaries would not be allowable.

Example 3: Paying for building repairs that have nothing to do with the COVID-19 pandemic or improvements would not be allowable.

Safe Return to School Plan

School Districts are required to have a plan for the safe return to school for all students. This plan must meet the US CDC's recommendations, as well as one that follows the Maine CDC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for responding to positive and close contact cases of COVID-19 in our schools.

Resources:

US CDC Recommendations COVID-19 Prevention in Schools

Maine CDC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Maine School Administrative District No.33's Safe Return to School Plan

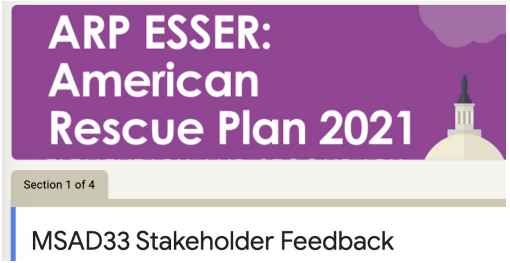
American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER Funds:

Stakeholder Feedback

Ensuring stakeholders have a voice in the plan process

On two separate occasions, MSAD 33 has pushed out stakeholder feedback surveys regarding the public's feedback on the use of the district's ARP allocation. Here are the results of those surveys:

Survey 1: Stakeholder Feedback



Survey 2: Stakeholder Follow Up Survey



MSAD 33 - Use of ARP Funds Plan

Projects to Address Learning Loss

1. Dr. Levesque Elementary Academic Interventionist (SY22 and SY23)
2. Madawaska Middle/High School Academic Interventionist (SY22 and SY23)
3. District-Wide Summer School for academic support (SY22 and SY23)
4. Middle High School Vacation School for credit recovery (SY22 and SY23)

Of the required $88,451 the district is required to allocate to projects addressing learning loss, we have exceeded the allocation by $268,749.

Total for Learning Loss Projects = $357,2000 beginning in 2021 and extending until September 2023.

Projects to help operate schools during COVID19

1. WIsdom Middle/High School classroom furniture project to ensure safe social distancing measures in classrooms.
2. Shared Temporary Support Personnel (aka floating substitute teacher) to assist across the district in a variety of capacities.
3. Air purification/conditioning project for several of our school locations in greatest need.
4. MSD33 Laptop project for middle school grades 7 and 8 to ensure that our students have the appropriate classroom technology.

Total for these other projects = $85,053.80

Administrative Team and School Committee Approval

Administrative Team Approval: Upon review of the stakeholder feedback and assessing the remaining needs of the district, the MSAD 33 Administrative Team approved the ARP Use of Funds plan on September 15, 2021.

School Committee Approval: Upon review of the stakeholder feedback, the administrative team recommendations, and allowing any public to speak on this item during the MSAD 33 regular meeting 1055, the School Board voted to approve the ARP Use of Funds Plan on November 22, 2021.

Additional Questions? Concerns? Feedback?

The MSAD 33 School Board encourages any and all stakeholders to continue to voice any questions, concerns, or to provide feedback during any of our regular school committee meetings. Members of the public can also contact the office of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the ARP Use of Funds Plan by calling 207.543.7334 or emailing Superintendent Sirois at bsirois@vuesc.org