



**North Texas Collegiate Academy**

Inspire with Character. Invest in Community. Instill with Confidence.

# Fall 2023 Update

ESSER III

American Rescue Plan-ARP Act

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)

# What is ESSER?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was enacted on March 27, 2020, and included Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds for K-12 schools. These ESSER grants will provide school districts with emergency relief funds to address the impact COVID-19 has had on elementary and secondary schools.

# Purpose of ESSER III Grant

The intent and purpose of ARP of 2021, ESSER III funding is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on students.

- Respond to the Pandemic

- Address Student Learning Loss

- Supplemental – State may not Supplant

1. The LEA must document a plan for the expenditure of ESSER III grant funds per the statutorily allowable activities and an estimated timeline of the planned expenditures.
2. The LEA must document how it determined its needs caused by COVID-19.
3. The LEA must document how it prioritized the needs in determining its use of the ESSER III grant funds.

## Other Guidelines

Provide Public Notice

Provide a Local Board Overview of Grant

Engage in Meaningful Consultation with Stakeholders

Data Collection for documentation and creation of preliminary plans

Set up a process for continuation of meaningful consultation, revision and evaluation

Post 2 plans on website (30 days after LEA receives the Notification of Grant Award (NOGA))

Plan 1: Use of Funds Plan (LEA ARP ESSER Plan)

Plan 2: LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

# TEA Program Requirements

# Plan 1 – Use of Funds: Four Required Domains

Four required domains:

Health & Safety as related to  
COVID (CDC guidance)

20% set-aside to address  
the academic impact of  
lost instructional time.

LEA Expenditure Plan for  
Remainder of Funds

Interventions implemented will  
respond to academic, social,  
emotional, and mental health needs  
of all students, and particularly those  
students disproportionately  
impacted by COVID-19.

# Plan 2 – Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

## Plan #2 - Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services



Texas schools starting point

Safe Reopening of  
Schools (procedure IF  
closure or transition to  
remote learning)

Continuity of Services

Respond to academic,  
social, emotion, and  
mental health

Evaluation of Plan &  
Meaningful Consultation

Accessible to all parents (parents of English Learners & parents with disabilities)

Translation implications

# Required Stakeholder Groups

## NTxCA Survey Schedule

Students

Families

Parents

Administrators

Teachers

Principals

Staff

Board Members

Staff Survey Window--May 18-28, 2021

Student Survey Window--May 24-27, 2021

Parent Survey Window--May 24-June 1, 2021

Community Stakeholder Survey Window--May 24-June 1, 2021

**Interim Survey-December 2021 (6 months after implementation of plan)**

Surveys sent through email, links posted on website and on school social media platforms.

## NTxCA Covid Response—Areas of Need

For the 2021-2022 school year, we identified 3 areas of focus:

1. Address the Social and Emotional Impacts of COVID-19
2. Address the Academic Impacts of COVID-19
3. Address the Health and Safety Impacts of COVID-19



# Interim Survey/District Data Update

1. NTxCA added targeted small-group tutorials and daily intervention to our master schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Data reports indicate average student growth of at least 10% in grades 3-8 in Math and ELAR.
2. NTxCA is offering multiple options for extra tutoring outside the regular school day:  
In-person tutoring in small groups with our staff after school  
Virtual tutoring provided by TutorMe available 24/7
3. NTxCA added SEL activities to our daily character education program through “Second Step” for the 2021-2022 school year. Discipline referrals have decreased at 2 campuses by 10% and at one campus by 8% from prior school year; helping students manage their emotions, build positive relationships with their peers and make good choices is effective; SEL committee reports no concerns and desires to continue program for 2022-2023 school year.

# Interim Survey/District Data Update

Our COVID-19 response protocols are effective. Free onsite COVID testing and sanitation protocol continue for 2021-2022 school year.

No campuses have faced any COVID-19 related closures during the current or prior school year.

Our Safe Return and Continuity of Instruction Plan will be revisited summer 2022 for possible revisions based on health trends in Denton County at the time.

## More Support for Social & Emotional Needs of Students and Staff in Response to COVID-19

1. To further support the social and emotional needs of all students in response to the pandemic, NTxCA implemented the Student Assistance Program in January 2022, offering FREE on-demand crisis support and counseling for all students and their parents/caregivers. This optional program will continue through at least the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
2. To further support the emotional and mental health issues facing staff members in response to the pandemic, NTxCA implemented FREE counseling in partnership with Behavior Family Health Services for all staff members. December 2021 survey results indicate a desire to continue this optional service through the remainder of the 2022 calendar year.

# Grant Update

- ESSER III funds are available through September 30, 2024.
- To avoid a fiscal cliff that may lead to an inability to pay staff who were paid through this grant, NTxCA has elected to not use any ESSER funds for basic salaries.
- In accordance with our grant application, we will continue to use funds in the following ways:
  - Address health and school-related air-quality concerns related to COVID-19 to keep all campuses open for face-to-face instruction
  - Provide extra-duty stipends for staff who are supporting our students through SEL enrichment activities and after-school tutoring to address the social, emotional, and academic concerns in response to COVID-19
  - Pay extra-duty stipends for staff who serve during summer programs that provide high-impact academic experiences for our students
  - Provide retention stipends to keep highly-qualified, highly-effective staff at our campuses providing face-to-face instruction for all students
  - Provide social and emotional support for staff and students in response to COVID-19
  - Provide supplies and materials for enrichment activities, summer programs, and tutorial groups

# Grant Update Fall 2023

Total Allotment	\$756,224
Initial Allotment (2/3)	\$504,149
Final Allotment (1/3)	\$252,075

## Per Year Grant Budget

2021-2022	\$249,553	<u>32% of grant 4/1/22</u>
2022-2023	\$302,621	<u>61% of grant 5/1/23</u>
2023-2024	\$204,050	

## What's Next?

Continue to implement our ESSER III plan to address areas of concern shown in surveys from staff, students, parents, and stakeholders.

Share plans and updates on website and host parent and community meetings at least every 6 months.

Monitor plan annually and revise as needed through end of grant cycle.

## Interim Update FALL 2023

- Continue to implement our ESSER III plan to address areas of concern shown in surveys from staff, students, parents, and stakeholders with academic achievement and mental health support being the primary objectives.
- Share plans and updates on website and host parent and community meetings at least every 6 months.
- Monitor plan annually and revise as needed through end of grant cycle on September 30, 2024.