

Decorah Community School District

ESSER III Plan

On April 21, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) released its American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (APR ESSER or ESSER III) state plan template for state education agencies (SEAs) to complete to receive the remaining third of ESSER III funds. In addition to the template, the USED also released ESSER III interim final requirements related to SEA consultation, district ESSER III plans, and district plans for a safe return in-person instruction and continuity of services.

Decorah Community School plans to utilize the ESSER funds for the following areas in prevention and mitigation strategies, social and emotional learning, and academic impact of learning loss as follows:

- Instruction – hiring of Learning Loss Teachers in the elementary buildings. Also maintaining teachers instead of staff reductions to keep the class sizes in the elementary lower for social distancing of students.
- Mental Health – hire a Facilitator of Student and Family Services to help coordinate school and family issues.
- Technology – purchase internet access and Hot Spots for students and family that need connections, computers, Swivls and other technology related items to help teachers communicate in person and on-line with students and families.
- Mitigation – improve indoor air quality by updated HVAC systems in the buildings. Also purchase air purifiers when HVAC mitigation is not an option at West Side Early Childhood and John Cline Elementary.
- Classroom materials – replace cloth items with items that can be cleaned and sanitized, totes for storing student materials in the elementary, masks, shields, tables, plexiglass dividers, etc.
- Outdoor Classroom Facilities – purchase of sun shades, picnic tables, etc. to promote outdoor activity area for staff and students
- Playground grass area – At the Carrie Lee and Middle School playground area, there is a grassy area that will not grow healthy grass conditions for safe green space for students. The board would replace with turf if approved by the Iowa Department of Education.