

LEA ARP ESSER Plan
SAU 39: Amherst School District Use of Funds Plan

The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (“ARP ESSER”) Fund, authorized under the American Rescue Plan (“ARP”) Act of 2021, provides nearly \$122 billion to States to support the Nation’s schools in safely reopening and sustaining safe operations of schools while meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students resulting from the coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic.

Reopening Task Force:

SAU 39 formed a Reopening Task Force with representation from multiple stakeholder groups with a goal of developing a reopening plan for the 2021-2022 school year in order to reopen schools safely, maximize in-person instructional time, and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, educators, and families.

The Reopening Task Force was composed of the following stakeholder groups: medical professionals, principals & administrators, school faculty & staff, parents & community members, students, and school counselors & social workers. The Task Force met weekly from June through August to develop a reopening plan to safely reopen schools for the 2021-2022 school year and make recommendations for both reopening and the use of grant funds to prevent, prepare for, and/or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to Reopening Task Force meetings, subcommittees met routinely to provide feedback to Task Force representatives.

Reopening Recommendations:

The Reopening Task force developed a reopening plan emphasizing in-person instruction, status levels with school safety protocols for each, and a remote support plan for students unable to participate in in-school instruction. The Reopening Task Force also discussed needed supports for students and possible uses of grant funds to prevent, prepare for, and/or respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Plan to Use Funds

In order to support students who are unable to engage in in-school instruction, the task force recommended that remote students enroll in New Hampshire’s Virtual Learning Academy Charter School for academics while having support from SAU 39. We are planning on utilizing ESSER funds for a remote support teacher who will monitor student progress through VLACS courses, provide supports/interventions as needed, and connect routinely with students to provide social and emotional support.

We also plan to utilize funds to replace student laptops that were broken due to heavy use during remote instruction and to replace furniture that broke while being stored during the 20-21 school year. In order to support mitigation strategies, we plan to request funding for additional portal sinks at the Clark-Wilkins Elementary school. In addition, we would like to utilize our funding for additional intervention and assessment materials to support students in meeting grade level expectations after disrupted learning.

We are inviting all members of the public to provide additional input into the development of this ESSER Use of Funds plan and our use of ESSER funding. To provide input, please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/kszyRdmkBRyUnZ6aA>