



**Gloucester County Public Schools**  
**Thomas Calhoun Walker Education Center**

6099 TC Walker Road  
Gloucester, Virginia 23061



**American Rescue Plan Act**  
**Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund**  
**Draft Expenditure Plan**  
August 2, 2021

## Section 1 - Introduction

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) into law, providing direct federal aid to a variety of entities, including public education. One purpose of ESSER III funds is to help schools safely reopen and address adverse impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by targeting academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs.

Gloucester County Public Schools was awarded **\$5,497,961.48** in ESSER III funds. This Draft Expenditure Plan describes how the school division intends to use these one-time federal funds. Questions about this plan should be directed to:

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During the month of August 2021, Gloucester County Public Schools seeks public input on its ESSER III Draft Expenditure Plan. Over the next three fiscal years, GCPS intends to use these funds to address student learning recovery and the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic using the categories listed in the following sections. Included in each section is a link to an online feedback form for written comments, questions, or suggestions.

Uses of Funds: [State Superintendent's Memo #110-21](#)

## Section 2 - Prevention and Mitigation Strategies (\$1.1M)

ESSER III funds may be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are consistent with the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) guidance on reopening schools, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools in a manner that maximizes in-person learning. GCPS will direct approximately \$1.1 million of its ARP Act ESSER III funds to implement prevention and mitigation strategies as described below:

- **Cleaning & disinfecting** - sustaining efforts to reduce risk of viral exposure or transmission by routine cleaning, disinfecting, and provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed. (\$50,000)
- **Water fountain fill stations** - continue to retrofit existing water fountains with refillable bottle dispensers. (\$50,000)
- **Restroom enhancements** - upgrade stall partitions in student restrooms to improve cleanliness, sanitation, and separation. (\$450,000)
- **Indoor Air Quality** - ensure ventilation systems in schools operate properly and maintain routine maintenance in accordance with the division's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Plan. (\$550,000)

[Click here to provide Section 2 feedback](#)

### Section 3 - Addressing Unfinished Learning and Students' Academic, Social, Emotional, and Mental Wellness Needs (\$3.9M)

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires each school division to dedicate at least twenty percent of its ESSER III funds to address academic impact of lost instructional time (learning loss) through the implementation of evidence-based strategies that include, but are not limited to: extended day or extended school year programs; summer learning or summer enrichment; before/after school programs, social-emotional wellness supports, etc. GCPS will direct approximately \$3.9 million of its ESSER III funds to address unfinished learning and students' academic, social and emotional needs as described below:

- **16 instructional positions (teacher and/or paraprofessional)** - classroom teaching and support positions to address the unique needs of students with disabilities, English language learners, lower-income students, and students identified as gifted. Funds will assist with reducing class sizes and providing targeted instructional support and enrichment. (\$3,000,000)
- **Educational technology** - Chromebooks, charging stations, laptops, and instructional peripherals to support and enhance in-person and remote learning. (\$400,000)
- **Summer recovery programs** - provide compensation to teachers and paraprofessionals to support summer learning recovery. (\$350,000)
- **Instructional Days** - addition of four (4) instructional days to the division calendar. (\$150,000)

[Click here to provide Section 3 feedback](#)

## Section 4 - Other Uses of Funds (\$497K)

- **Buses and Vehicles** - purchase additional school buses and fleet vehicles to reduce the number of students on a bus, provide after-school transportation for extended learning opportunities and meal delivery. (\$397,000)
- **Furniture & partitions** - purchase additional classroom tables and Plexiglas partitions to facilitate appropriate physical distancing. (\$100,000)

*[Click here to provide Section 4 feedback](#)*

## Section 5 - Public Availability of Draft Expenditure Plan

Gloucester County Public Schools has taken the following steps to make this plan available to the public:

- Posted on the division's homepage <http://gets.gc.k12.va.us> for 30 days, with opportunity for public comment;
- The plan will be made available in Spanish, if requested;
- Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act may be provided with an alternative format by contacting the Office of Student Services at (804) 693-7856.