

## **JOINT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**Date:** October 07, 2021

### **Regular Meeting – REMOTE MEETING held**

*(To view a recording of this meeting, please visit our website [www.reg4.k12.ct.us](http://www.reg4.k12.ct.us) and select “Remote Meeting Recordings” under the BOARD OF EDUCATION Heading)*

**CHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

David Fitzgibbons, Charlene Fearon, Dale Bernardoni, Rebecca Greenberg-Ellis, Rob Bibbiani, Tom Englert; Maria Scherber (joined 7:39 p.m.)

**DEEP RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

Miriam Morrissey, Bob Ferretti, Lenore Gunko, Missy Campbell (joined 7:03 p.m.), Pat Maikowski

**ESSEX BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

Lon Seidman, Mark Watson, Nancy Johnston, Cassandra Sweet (joined at 7:06 p.m.)

**REGION 4 BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

Jane Cavanaugh, Rob Bibbiani, Lori Ann Clymas, John Stack, Jennifer Clark, Rick Daniels, Lon Seidman

Also in attendance: Mr. Brian White, Superintendent; Sarah Brzozowy, Assistant Superintendent; and Robert Grissom, Finance Director

### **CALL TO ORDER and Verbal Roll Call**

Supervision District Committee Chair David Fitzgibbons called the meeting to order at approx. 7:02 p.m.

The Chairs (or their designee) of the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards called their respective Boards to order at 7:03 p.m.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made and seconded the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to accept the consent agenda consisting of the Minutes from the regular meeting of June 03, 2021; the special meeting of July 20, 2021; and the special meeting of August 10, 2021.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Stuart Johnson of Chester shared that he had attended the First Equity Committee meeting facilitated by Linda Darcy of LEARN. He voiced concerns that the district makes sure not to favor certain groups over other groups and wants the district to first determine whether our schools have problem with discrimination and if we do, then determine how to best address it. He asked that the Board oversee what the committee is doing and to be aware of how administrators and teachers are being trained, as well as any proposed changes to any curriculum. He encouraged every Board to have at least one member attend these meetings.

### **REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS**

Superintendent White discussed the Executive Order mandated vaccine/testing options for school employees. He noted that our high level of vaccinated staff has already been shown to be a benefit during recent quarantines where it allowed us to keep all staff in school, while some unvaccinated students were required to quarantine.

He shared that his office is currently working to try and find evenings that are available in the near future to schedule meetings of our Joint BOE Curriculum, Policy and Finance Committees. The challenge we are currently running into, beyond the normal busy schedule of evening meetings, is the fact that we are actively negotiating 6 of our contracts which is greatly reducing the number of available evenings in the near future. He will be communicating with Board Chairs and determining possible dates to share out as soon as possible.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4 Boards unanimously **VOTED** to approve the proposed Calendar of BOE Meetings for Jan. – Dec. 2022 as presented.

Assistant Superintendent Brzozowy shared information regarding the proposed flexibilities amendment to the Educator Evaluation and Support Plan enclosure. Members were given time to ask questions.

At approx. 7:20 p.m. On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester (5 Yes / 0 No / 1 abstained, R. Greenberg-Ellis = passed), Deep River (4 Yes / 0 No / 1 abstained – B. Ferretti = passed), Essex (unanimous) and Region 4 Board (unanimous) VOTED to adopt the CSDE approved *flexibilities* amendment to the Educator Evaluation and Support Plan adopted by the Joint BOE on June 04, 2015, for the 2021-22 school year.

Assistant Superintendent Brzozowy and Finance Director Bob Grissom shared a presentation regarding the planned use of ESSER grant funds at all of our schools (see attachaed). Even more building specific details will be shared with individual boards at upcoming individual meetings. Members were given time to ask questions.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – No reports were made

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No comments were made

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Next regular Joint BOE meeting – December 02, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT\*:**

On motion duly made and seconded, the Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4 Boards of Education unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer Bryan, Clerk

# Regional School District No. 4

ARP ESSER III Grant Application  
Summary of Application Submission Details  
Thursday, October 7, 2021

# ARP ESSER III Grant Info

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

2021 Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund

## *Connecticut State-Level Priorities*

1. Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal, & Student Enrichment
  - *NEW*: 20% minimum set-aside for this priority
2. Family and Community Connections
3. Social, Emotional, & Mental Health
4. Strategic Use of Technology & Staff Development
5. Building Safe & Healthy Schools

## *General Use of Funds*

- Preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19
- Addressing learning loss , preparing schools for reopening, and testing, repairing, and upgrading projects to improve air quality in school buildings
- Additional information on program guidelines : [CT ARP ESSER III Program](#)

Period of Funds Availability: Through **September 30, 2024** (next 3 years)

# ARP ESSER III Grant Summary

Funding for Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Regional School District 4

**\$843,684**

	ARP ESSER III
Chester	\$ 197,228
Deep River	\$ 249,395
Essex	\$ 129,170
JWMS	\$ 87,600
VRHS	\$ 180,291
<b>Total Entitlement</b>	<b>\$ 843,684</b>

# ARP ESSER III Grant Spending Plan

	Amount	Salaries & Benefits	Salaried Positions	Other	Description
Chester	\$ 197,228	\$173,036	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Psychologist</li> <li>EL Intervention</li> </ul>	\$24,192	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Platforms for Intervention &amp; Universal Screening</li> </ul>
Deep River	\$ 249,395	\$242,395	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading Intervention</li> <li>Math Intervention</li> <li>School Psychologist</li> </ul>	\$7,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building Study</li> </ul>
Essex	\$ 129,170	\$129,170	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Worker</li> <li>Math Intervention</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A
JWMS	\$ 87,600	N/A	N/A	\$87,600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Intervention Platforms</li> <li>Lexia (Reading + Math)</li> <li>Curriculum</li> </ul>
VRHS	\$ 180,291	\$172,013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Math Intervention</li> <li>Reading Intervention</li> <li>Counseling</li> </ul>	\$8,278	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Intervention Platforms</li> </ul>

# ARP ESSER III Detailed Spending Plan - Chester

## *Priority 1: Academic Supports, Learning Loss, Learning Acceleration and Recovery*

- English Language / Language Arts Interventionist
- Digital Platform for Intervention
- Digital Platform for Universal Screener

Increasing the English Language and Language Arts Intervention resources, with up to 0.5 FTE as well as adding supplemental digital platforms, will better position the school in supporting our students with EL interventions, enrichment, and acceleration.

## *Priority 3: Social-Emotional Well-Being*

- School Psychologist

During the 2020-21 school year, CES saw instances of significant distress among a population of our students resulting in concerning behaviors, and increasing our School Psychologist resource will provide additional support in the school for our students, staff, and families with their unique social-emotional needs.

# ARP ESSER III Detailed Spending Plan - Deep River

## *Priority 1: Academic Supports, Learning Loss, Learning Acceleration and Recovery*

- Reading & Math Interventionists

Up to two Reading and up to two Math part-time Interventionists will better position the school in supporting our students with reading and math interventions, enrichment, and acceleration.

## *Priority 3: Social-Emotional Well-Being*

- School Psychologist

During the 2020-21 school year, DRES saw instances of significant distress among a population of our students resulting in concerning behaviors, and increasing our School Psychologist resource will provide additional support in the school for our students, staff, and families with their unique social-emotional needs.

## *Priority 5: Building Safe and Healthy Schools*

- Building Study

Funds to supplement Deep River's cost for the District-wide building study, which will focus on air-handling and ventilation systems, capacity configurations, and other critical building systems.



# ARP ESSER III Detailed Spending Plan - Essex

## *Priority 1: Academic Supports, Learning Loss, Learning Acceleration and Recovery*

- Math Interventionist

An additional 0.5 FTE Math Interventionist will better position the school in supporting our students with math interventions, enrichment, and acceleration.

## *Priority 3: Social-Emotional Well-Being*

- Social Worker

During the 2020-21 school year, EES saw instances of significant distress among a population of our students resulting in concerning behaviors, and a part-time social worker will provide an additional resource in the school to help support our students, staff, and families with their unique social-emotional needs.

# ARP ESSER III Detailed Spending Plan - Region 4

## *Priority 1: Academic Supports, Learning Loss, Learning Acceleration and Recovery*

- Reading & Math Interventionists (VR)
- Digital Platforms for Reading and Math Intervention (JW/VR)

Up to two Reading and up to two Math part-time tutors will run labs in which interventions are provided in a pull out model; Students will be identified by the Student Assistance Team using assessment and behavioral data. The Learning Platforms will contribute to the necessary remediation and acceleration of learning.

## *Priority 3: Social-Emotional Well-Being*

- School Counselor (VR)
- Supplemental Digital and Experiential SEL Resources (JW)

A licensed counselor will come into Valley Regional High School up to 2 days per week to help identify students who need regular counseling support. Additionally, at John Winthrop Middle School, the Habitudes program will be implemented during weekly advisory program to supplement current SEL programming, and other SEL activities, including speakers, theme days, etc. will occur throughout the year.

Questions?