

Utica City School District Foundation Aid and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding Priorities and Plan Framework

Introduction:

The Utica City School District will receive additional Foundation Aid of more than 10% and American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding in the amount of \$58,212,298 for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. The school district formally surveyed for input from the public, including teachers, parents, students and the community on utilizing this funding for non-recurring expenses in the following priority areas:

1. Addressing achievement gaps and learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic.
2. Meeting student social, emotional and mental health needs.
3. Providing academic supports for students not meeting New York State Standards.
4. Providing resources and support for English Language Learners (ELLs), Students with Disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness.
5. Increasing the graduation rate.

Framework:

District Priority: Addressing Achievement Gaps and Learning Loss (20% of the allocation**)

Initiatives/activities to support this priority may include but are not limited to the following:

- Offering educational options that expand credit recovery programming for students.
- Purchasing instructional resources and supplies for classrooms across the school district.
- Expanding the number of course offerings, including electives and dual-credit (high school and college credit) courses.
- Upgrading instructional technology across the school district in each and every classroom that aids in specialized methods of instructional delivery.
- Providing staff development on effective student engagement strategies.

**Minimum allocation requirement

District Priority: Meeting student social, emotional and mental health needs (11% of the allocation)

Initiatives/activities to support this priority may include but are not limited to the following:

- Providing training to school staff to better identify students who are experiencing social/emotional distress and/or mental health issues.
- Providing training and ongoing support in social emotional and wellness competencies.
- Providing bullying prevention programs and trainings.
- Providing coaching support for school buildings to promote a tiered system of support for positive behavior (PBIS).
- Providing professional development in Trauma Informed Schools.

District Priority: Providing Academic Support for Students not meeting New York State Standards (11% of the allocation)

Initiatives/activities to support this priority may include but are not limited to the following:

- Providing and expanding trainings on the Next Generation Learning Standards and other New York State Department of Education Learning Standards.
- Purchasing assessment tools which are designed to support informed instruction.
- Purchasing programs for the delivery of Academic Intervention Services (AIS) designed to meet the needs of struggling students.
- Expanding Extended Learning Time (ELT) and tutorial programs.
- Providing professional development on implementing evidence-based instructional strategies.

District Priority: Providing resources and support for English Language Learners (ELLs), Students with Disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness (11% of the allocation)

Initiatives/activities to support this priority may include but are not limited to the following:

- Providing specialized resources, programming and supports to address the unique needs of students and families for whom English is a new language.
- Providing specialized resources, programming and supports to address the unique needs of bilingual students and families.
- Providing translation services, materials and equipment.
- Providing specialized resources, programming and supports to address the unique needs of students with disabilities and their families.

- Providing staff development on differentiated instruction and inclusive practices.
- Providing specialized resources, programming and supports to address students experiencing homelessness.

District Priority: *Raise the graduation rate (12% of the allocation)*

Initiatives/activities to support this priority may include but are not limited to the following:

- Upgrading and increasing Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming including programs based in the trades.
- Expanding programs that integrate career internships and shadowing opportunities.
- Increasing work-based learning opportunities.
- Purchasing student management systems and software applications to expand tracking of student performance data in order to design programs and interventions to meet student needs.
- Expanding transition programming.
- Expanding career and post-secondary planning.

District Priority: *Safely returning students to full-time in-person instruction (35% of the allocation)*

Initiatives/activities to support this priority may include but are not limited to the following:

- Continuing to provide COVID-19 mitigation resources as required by federal and state guidelines.
- Upgrading additional mechanical equipment to enhance ventilation systems and air quality.
- Purchasing additional sanitizing and disinfecting equipment.
- Upgrading school cafeteria equipment.
- Upgrading drinking fountains for improved safety and sanitation.
- Making structural and safety improvements to school buildings.
- Upgrading facilities to accommodate the expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming including programs based in the trades.

This framework is subject to change based on additional guidance and program approval from the New York State Education Department, modifications required through the competitive bid process, and meeting the LEA ARP-ESSER plan requirements under the ARP statute and the United States Department of Education's (USDE's) ARP-ESSER Interim Final Requirements (IFR).