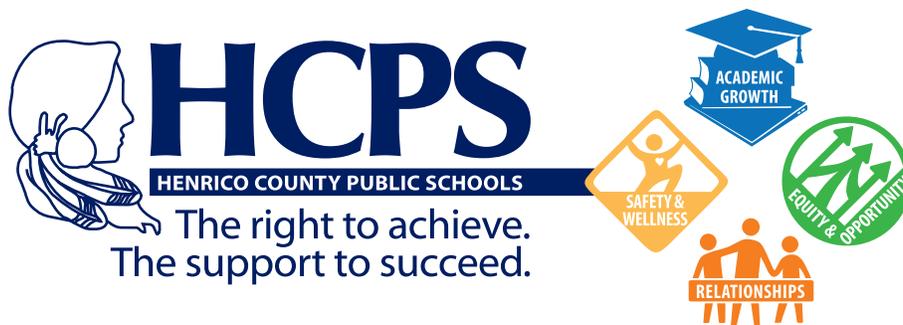


# Henrico County Public Schools

# American Rescue Plan Act

# ESSER III Spending Plan



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*This document was created in compliance with the Virginia Department of Education requirement that each local education agency that receives American Rescue Act ESSER III funds develop and make publicly available on its website a plan for the use of these funds by Aug. 1, 2021.*

The purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief — or “ESSER III” — fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation’s students by addressing students’ academic, social, emotional and mental health needs. Henrico County Public Schools has been awarded \$78.32 million in ESSER III funds. This plan describes how the awarded funds will be used. Questions about this plan should be directed to John Wack, HCPS’ chief financial officer, at [jbwack@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:jbwack@henrico.k12.va.us).

To date, the division previously received ESSER I and II funds, and those funds were used to safely reopen schools, sustain school operations and to meet student needs. Below is a summary of prior spending plans for ESSER I and II funding:

**Prevention and mitigation strategies addressed through ESSER I, ESSER II and the ESSER II set-aside included:**

- Obtaining cleaning supplies and cleaning equipment.
- Signage to encourage safety protocols and daily health screenings.
- Purchase of masks, gloves and other PPE as well as hand sanitizer.
- Additional school clinic staffing (clinic attendants).
- Air filters and purifiers to improve air quality.
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system repairs and replacements.
- Establishing security vestibules at 10 schools to help address distancing protocols and better control the use of space.
- Purchase of additional buses and minivans to accommodate social distancing.
- Summer reengagement.

**Efforts to address students’ academic, social, emotional and mental health needs through ESSER I, ESSER II and ESSER II set-aside included:**

- Student laptops for remote learning.
- Wi-Fi hot spots for remote learning.
- Additional temporary staffing to assist with in-person and hybrid learning (substitute teachers, classroom monitors, etc.).
- Adding 30 full-time school counselor positions to provide mental health services and support to students (funding for two school years).
- Adding 15 full-time reading specialist positions and 13 full-time library assistant positions to help address literacy rate deficiencies aggravated by the pandemic (initially funded for two school years).
- Funding for 2021 Summer Academy instruction and transportation.
- Provide tutoring and remediation services for students living in subsidized housing and identified local communities.
- Purchase of literacy program materials for pre-K through grade 12, including assessment tools, digital resources and the replacement of library books lost during the pandemic.

- Purchase of social and emotional learning digital resources to help teachers gather data to meet students' social and emotional needs.
- Student reengagement efforts.

**The school division proposes using the majority of its \$78.3 million in ESSER III funds for the purposes below, which all focus on continuing to meet critical students needs. These proposals are based on a review of student achievement data, HCPS' annual survey of students, parents, guardians and staff, and input from various staff advisory groups (e.g., teacher advisory groups and principal advisory groups), as well as the division's stakeholder-informed strategic plan, "Destination 2025."**

1. Renovation and replacement of facilities at the Campus of Virginia Randolph at an estimated cost of \$60.5 million, in order to:
  - o **Increase community-based wraparound support services** for students and their families through a new community learning center hub.
  - o **Improve special education, career and technical education, and alternative education programs** for students currently enrolled in this specialized programming offered onsite.
  - o **Expand specialized programming, such as on-campus alternative education and adult education programs**, to reach more students.
2. Continue to fund key positions that were funded beginning in the 2021-22 school year with prior rounds of ESSER funding, through FY2024 (for a third year). Funding these positions, at an estimated cost of \$4.5 million, will minimize the initial impact of these positions on the local budget, which was negatively impacted by the pandemic. The positions are:
  - o Fifteen reading specialists.
  - o Thirty school counselors.
  - o Thirteen library assistants.
3. Extend the expanded Summer Academy offerings for summer 2022 and 2023, to provide students with comprehensive remediation and opportunity programming. This proposal, with an estimate cost of \$3.2 million, would continue providing students in pre-K through grade 12 with transportation at no cost, as funded through prior rounds of ESSER funding.
4. Renew key instructional resources. These resources offer quality differentiated lessons and track student progress through real-time data collection tools, to help monitor and respond to student needs. These programs, which have previously been funded through prior ESSER funds, would be continued through the 2023-24 school year. They include:
  - o Adaptive digital resources.
  - o Literacy intervention materials.
  - o ESL (English as a second language) resources and diverse language library collections.
  - o Special education literacy resources for specially designed instruction.
  - o Panorama, a digital resource for supporting social-emotional learning.

5. Expand opportunities for remediation programming during the school day and/or outside school hours and school days. The level of support to address unfinished instruction requires funds to hire tutors and to cover transportation costs.
6. Continue to support HCPS student learning by providing an electronic device to all students. During the COVID-19 pandemic, each student was given a device to use at home, including pre-K and elementary students that did not have this access before the pandemic.
7. Capital improvements to part of the former Highland Springs High School building to ready space for a new Community Learning Center — or CLC — to open in fall 2022. The Highland Springs High School CLC site will function as a hub, and the individual school Community Learning Center programs as spokes. The new Community Learning Center hub will serve the broader community by providing access to key wraparound services and support. Currently, several schools in the area — Glen Lea, Laburnum and Ratcliffe elementary schools, and L. Douglas Wilder Middle School — have site-specific community school programming. Programming includes onsite programs such as extended academic learning opportunities, telehealth services, mental health support, increased parent engagement activities and more.
8. Bolster community engagement efforts by adding to and updating outreach resources. The HCPS Family and Community Engagement Department — or FACE — will replace its current community engagement bus by adding three vans to its outreach fleet. These vehicles will enable HCPS to meet students and families where they are, bring resources into communities and encourage staff to connect in our neighborhoods. Proposed enhancements to HCPS’ outreach experience are:
  - o Addition of three outreach vans to the fleet.
  - o Additional family social-emotional learning resources that can be made available through the mobile resource center.
  - o Additional “whole child, whole family” resources for the mobile center and to aid staff as they connect with families during outreach.
  - o Additional funding for interpreters and translators to provide real-time translation services to support our diverse student population during mobile outreach efforts.
9. Additional funding to support the Henrico Virtual Academy, a fully online K-12 school that will join HCPS’ 72 other schools and program centers when it opens for the 2021-22 school year. There is an increased need for seats at the Henrico Virtual Academy for 2021-22 as families continue to have concerns about COVID-19 and its effects on the health of students.

This plan has been prepared in English and Spanish and is available at [www.henricoschools.us/budget-finance/](http://www.henricoschools.us/budget-finance/). Upon request, an oral translation or alternative format can be provided by contacting Andy Jenks, HCPS’ chief of communications and community engagement, at [ajenks@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:ajenks@henrico.k12.va.us).