

PUBLIC HEARING WRITTEN COMMENTS  
Thursday, August 12, 2021

Timestamp	First Name:	Last Name:	Magisterial District:	Your Public Hearing Written Comments:
Aug. 11, 21 -- 9:29: AM	Terrence	Walker	Varina District - Alicia S. Atkins	I am a parent of a rising 9th grader; please use ESSER funds to fully implement the Holton plan. I believe that my son and all students in HCPS would greatly benefit if Holton's recommendations become a reality. Thank you.
Aug. 11, 21 -- 2:25: PM	Kimberly	Uccellini	Tuckahoe District - Marcie F. Shea	Please consider using the funds for the following: outdoor tables/chairs/structures to conduct classes and meals outside; ventilation/filtration system upgrades and improvements; resources and supplies for COVID testing and contact tracing; additional medical and mental health staff; sufficient PPE (masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, etc), equipment to enforce physical distancing; training for staff and students about mitigation strategies; new technology (computers, headsets); adequate IT support to support troubleshooting that technology
Aug. 11, 21 -- 6:53: PM	Patti	Huggins	Teacher, Henrico County	<p>The present ESSER III Plan designates over 75% of funds for a capital project identified pre COVID19. In a memo to Div. Supts. on 6/11/21, Dr. Lane, VA Supt. of Public Instruction, wrote: "It should be noted that the USED discourages school divisions from using ESSER and GEER funds for new construction because this use of funds may limit a school division's ability to support other essential needs or initiatives." Using funds for new construction is plainly discouraged by VDOE and the USED. Such usage may be squeezed into the 'letter of the law', but does not meet the 'spirit of the law' to "address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic" on all students. Alternatively, please consider devoting the majority of the over 78 million dollars for direct student support by allocating funds to individual schools. A formula for each school allocation would consider achievement scores, EL needs, ExEd needs, enrollment, etc. Each school would submit a plan for how funds would be used to improve student outcomes and plans would be approved by the school system before dispersal. A similar system is being used in Fairfax County. The needs in our schools are as diverse as the over 50,000 students we serve. Trust school admin and staff to meet the academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs of their unique populations. Added support to each school, and hence all students, is "allowable, reasonable, and necessary", under ESSER. Miguel A. Cardona, U.S. Sec. Ed., in a letter to state officials, addressed ARP ESSER and vulnerable students: "It is particularly important that ARP ESSER funding will enable State and local educational agencies, as well as schools, to support students who have been most severely impacted by the pandemic, which has even further exacerbated the inequities in our education system...Federal relief funds can be used to equitably expand opportunities for the students who need the funds most, including students from low income backgrounds, students of color, students with disabilities, English learners, students experiencing homelessness or trauma, and students without access to technology." Vulnerable students exist in each of our schools, and ARP ESSER funds were intended to support all of them. This is a time to put our HCPS 'Four Cornerstones' and 'Equity Areas of Focus' into practice. Our students indeed have the "right to achieve". In this unique moment, please give each of them all of the available "support to succeed".</p>

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Aug. 12, 21 -- 7:56: AM	Douglas	Broome	Fairfield District - Roscoe D. Cooper, III	As a citizen and parent of a high school student I would like to see funding directed toward a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion effort to ensure that all Henrico students have an equal opportunity to attend the specialty centers and Maggie Walker Governor's school. The programs that younger students participate in have a significant effect on their ability to apply for and be accepted to these programs. I would like to see an effort on the part of the school system to make sure the disruptions of the pandemic have not put them out of reach for students that could benefit from them, particularly Black and Hispanic students. I believe this should involve training for teachers to recommend eligible students for programs that will put them on the path to attendance of a specialty center, an IB program, or the Governor's School.