

MORTON DISTRICT 709
Use of ARP-ESSER III
Funds



Fiscal Year 2021-2023

Morton District 709,

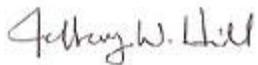
The 2020-21 school year was unprecedented in a number of ways. For Morton District 709 it saw our teachers, students, administrators, staff and community pull together like never before to ensure our students had in person learning for the entire school year. We are thankful for everyone's effort and recognize that it took all of us to make it happen!

Our efforts for the coming year included our continued advocacy through our state organizations and legislators for local control. Hundreds of school districts throughout the state participated in the #MakeitLocal twitter campaign to emphasize that school districts needed the flexibility to make decisions that best served the communities that they represent. We need that flexibility to provide in-person learning that allows us to get back to the instructional strategies and educational opportunities that create the deepest learning possible for our students.

As we look forward to the 2021-22 & 2022-23 school years, we continue to make progress toward a normal teaching and learning environment. We realize that COVID-19 is something we will continue to live with for the near future, and need to do so without sacrificing the quality of educational opportunities our students deserve. Because of our success in 2020-21 and the commitment of the Morton 709 community we are confident we have the necessary tools to take the next step toward a normal school year. We are happy to announce that for the 2021-22 & 2022-23 school years, our regular routines regarding lunch, PE, music and other educational opportunities will continue to be in place.

Should the rate of transmission of COVID-19 in our schools increase to certain levels, we have a tiered plan for mitigation outlined in our Back to School Plan. As always, your diligence in sending healthy students to school will be of the utmost importance.

We are looking forward to the upcoming year and appreciate your support of Morton 709!



Morton District 709 Superintendent

ESSER III Planning,

Morton 709 complied with the criteria and guidelines set forth by ISBE for the planning and administration of the ESSER III funds. The following is a criteria that Morton 709 followed in regards to complying with ISBE requirements:

- A portion of ESSER III funds were directly related to implementing prevention and mitigation strategies that were consistent with CDC guidance. Instructional software was purchased to allow students the ability to learn remotely, if they were forced to miss school due to COVID-19. COVID related custodial supplies were also purchased to disinfect and clean facilities daily. These custodial supplies were essential in limiting the exposure and spread of COVID in Morton 709 schools.
- Funds were used to address the academic impact of lost instructional time due to COVID-19. Curriculum supplies and materials were purchased for summer school enrichment and after-school programs to help accelerate learning for students. Additional curriculum and software material was purchased to enhance student learning throughout the school year. Homebound tutoring has also been provided to students.
- The administration team and special education director has implemented strategies that have responded to the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of all students. Morton 709 psychologists, nurses, and social workers have been essential in collaborating with targeted students.
- ESSER III funding has been discussed in public board meetings with the ability for the public to have input/recommendations. The grants director consulted with school administrators, the special education director, and the technology/curriculum director on addressing the most efficient ways to allocate funds tailored to specific needs of each department.

Use of ESSER III Funds,

Morton District 709 received federal funding from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III ARP Fund. The purpose of this grant is to provide the district with emergency relief funds to address the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have on the district. Morton 709 has received a grant allocation of **\$684,063** from this grant. The school district has allocated a portion of the grant into five different sections:

- **LEA - Loss of Learning**
 - The district must reserve no less than 20 percent of its total ESSER ARP allocation to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.
- **Use of Funds**
 - The use of funds by the district or other entities in compliance with Section 18003(d) of the CARES Act, Section 313 of CRRSA, and the ARP includes activities that address the digital divide. Such activities include securing access to home-based connectivity and remote-use devices and related issues in supporting remote learning for all students, including disadvantaged populations.
- **SEA Reservation - Learning Loss**
 - This reservation section addresses the academic impact of lost instructional time. Not less than 5 percent of the State's grant must be reserved to carry out, directly or through sub grants or contracts, activities to address the academic impact of lost instructional time by supporting the implementation of evidence-based interventions.
- **SEA Reservation - Summer Enrichment**
 - This section is reserved to carry out, directly or through sub grants or contracts, the implementation of evidence-based summer enrichment programs. No less than 1 percent of the State's grant must be allocated towards this section.
- **SEA Reserve - After-School Programs**
 - This section is reserved to carry out, directly or through sub grants or contracts, the implementation of evidence-based comprehensive after-school programs. No less than 1 percent of the State's grant must be allocated towards this section.

Morton 709 is very fortunate to receive this funding to help address the impact COVID-19 has had on the district. These funds have been very beneficial for the district to purchase services, supplies, and equipment to help accelerate student learning and to assist the district as a whole. The following is the allocation of each section:

- **LEA - Loss of Learning: \$292,658**
 - Instructional software platforms for student learning
 - Curriculum material
- **Use of Funds: \$318,089**
 - Technology software and hardware that is essential for the school district to operate
 - COVID custodial supplies/materials
- **SEA Reservation: \$52,368**
 - Classroom supplies, software, and material for curriculum
- **SEA Reservation - Summer Enrichment: \$10,474**
 - Summer programming curriculum material
- **SEA Reservation - After-School Programs: \$10,474**
 - Supplies/materials for after-school programs