

Section: Narratives - Needs Assessment

Introduction

In accordance with the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act and Pennsylvania Act 24 of 2021 (Act 24), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will award approximately \$ 249,848,000 or five percent (5%) of Pennsylvania's ARP Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) State Reserve funds to school districts, charter schools and cyber charter schools (collectively, LEAs) = to implement evidence-based interventions that address learning loss in response to the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of students and subgroups of students impacted by COVID-19 public health emergency that supplement school programs and activities.

Act 24 requires that LEAs, at a minimum, use the funds they are awarded under this subgrant in the following ways: .

Percentage of LEA Allocation - Required Activities

30% - To address the social, emotional and mental health needs of students

10% - To provide professional development and technical assistance to educators, school support staff, school leaders and school health professionals to address the social, emotional and mental health needs of students.

8% - To address reading remediation and improvement for students

The remaining allocation may be used by the LEA to address and/or supplement other areas of learning loss caused by the pandemic.

Act 24 also requires that, when available, existing personnel shall be utilized by school districts, charter schools and cyber charter schools to staff programs and activities established with these grant funds.

Within 90 days of receipt of these allocations, school districts, charter schools and cyber charter schools must submit a three-part plan to PDE, that outlines the proposed use of the grant money, itemized by program and activity. This plan is part of a consolidated application that includes after-school programming, summer activities, and a comprehensive plan to address learning loss. The plan shall include:

- 1) A description of each program and activity
- 2) A narrative outlining the expected benefit of each program and activity
- 3) A budget for each program and activity detailing personnel and operating costs.

Through this grant application, LEAs will meet their requirement of developing a three-part plan, including describing their planned programming, a narrative outlining the expected benefit of each program and activity, as well as an overview of how the LEA determined the areas of need to be addressed, including the use of stakeholder feedback.

PDE has developed the Accelerated Learning Toolkit, a significant cadre of resources and trainings, to support LEAs in the development of their plans. The Accelerated Learning Toolkit can be found [Link to Accelerated Learning Toolkit](#).

Needs Assessment: In this section, LEAs are asked to describe the impact of the pandemic on their

students, examine disproportionate impacts on specific student groups, and highlight the LEA's promising practices in supporting student needs since March 2020.

Indicators of Impact

1. Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Describe how the LEA has identified or will identify the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning and well-being. Specifically, what methods (i.e., collecting and analyzing data and information from focus groups, surveys, and local assessment results) were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts in four key areas: (1) Social and Emotional Learning, (2) Professional Development needs to support Social and Emotional Learning, (3) Reading Remediation and Improvement for Students, and (4) Other areas of Learning Loss?

	Method used to Understand Each Type of Impact
Social and Emotional Learning	Universal Vare implemented a school based program called Vare Check and Connect (VC2). This program allowed staff members to check in weekly with a designated group of scholars. Based on feedback given from the scholars any social and emotional issues to relayed to the School Counselor, Social Service Liaison and Administration. These three entities address the issues as they arise.
Professional Development for Social and Emotional Learning	Universal Vare utilized the School Counselor to provide Professional Development in the areas of social and emotional learning. Parent surveys were used to assess any social and emotional issues. We hosted Town Hall meetings to support parents/guardian and scholars.
Reading Remediation and Improvement for Students	Universal Vare used the baseline data from the IReady program to address the Learning Loss and Reading deficits. Teachers enforced that scholars use the MyPath daily program in order to enhance their reading abilities.
Other Learning Loss	N/A

Documenting Disproportionate Impacts

2. Identify the student groups in the LEA that faced particularly significant impacts from the pandemic in the areas of Social and Emotional Learning, Reading Remediation and Improvement, or any other areas of learning loss that the LEA will address with this funding source. For each, provide specific strategies that were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts.

Student Group	Area of Impact	Provide specific strategies that were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts
		Counselor will provide weekly

Student Group	Area of Impact	Provide specific strategies that were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts
Children from Low-Income Families	Social and Emotional Learning	support for scholars who have displayed social emotional issues during the pandemic.
Children from Low-Income Families	Reading Remediation and Improvement	Teachers will utilize the data from the Reading Interventions (ie. Benchmarks and Diagnostics from I-Ready) to provide small group instruction to meet scholar needs. Scholars will also complete individualized lessons via the MYPath online portal. We will also use the 2022 PA PSSA Reading scores to determine scholar growth in Reading.

Section: Narratives - Learning Loss Program Questions

Learning Loss Program Questions: In this section, LEAs are asked to describe the activities they have designed to support accelerated learning to combat learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic for their students. Please use the following link to ensure that your calculated values below are equal to the values published on PDE's website. The file contains your LEA's MINIMUM required reserves for Learning Loss to address SEL, SEL PD, and Reading Improvement. [Click to download reserve amounts.](#)

*LEA's can choose to spend MORE than the minimum required reserves for Learning Loss. Those values will be entered in the budget sections.

Section 3a – Social and Emotional Learning: As schools across the Commonwealth return to school, LEAs face increased challenges in addressing the mental health needs of their students and staff. LEAs are required to utilize **A MINIMUM of THIRTY PERCENT (30%)** of funding available through this grant application to support the Social and Emotional Learning of their students. In this section, LEAs are asked to describe the activities they have designed to address these needs. Please reference the SEL framework to assist in developing this plan.

3. Calculate 30% of LEA Allocation as the **MINIMUM REQUIRED RESERVE** for Social and Emotional Learning. *(Calculation will populate when you click the Save button)*
 - *This value will be needed in the corresponding budget section.*

	Total LEA Allocation	Multiply by 30% (.30)	Minimum Allocation for SEL
Minimum 30% SEL Requirement	125,613	30%	37,684

4. Describe the data sources the LEA is using to identify social and emotional needs of students and identify areas of strength and concerns in the learning environment.

Universal Vare will use the data gathered from the survey monkeys to identify the social and emotional needs of scholars. School counselor will continue to use resources gathered from online sites to do team building activities, strategies to address social and emotional needs and develop a plan to monitor self social and emotional wellness.

5. Program/Activities – Please describe the planned program activities and identify the type of activity and the number of students to be served by that activity.

Program Activity	Student Group	Type (Universal, Targeted, Intensive)	Number of Students Served
Activity from the Social Skills Curriculum called Positive Action	Children with Disabilities	Targeted	35
Growing Leaders: Ready for Real Life Curriculum	Children with Disabilities	Universal	200

6. How will the LEA assess the success of the SEL program? Please identify the tool, frequency of use, and expected results.

Tool Used to Evaluate Success	Frequency of Use	Expected Results
Survey Monkey	Monthly	Parents/Guardian will be better equipped to handle their child's scholar social and emotional needs
Listening and learning observations	Weekly	Social and emotional issues will decrease overtime
Face to face observing scholars	Daily	Social and emotional issues will decrease overtime

Section 3b – Social and Emotional Learning Professional Development: LEAs face increased challenges in addressing the mental health needs of their students and staff. LEAs are required to utilize **A MINIMUM OF TEN PERCENT (10%)** of funding available through this grant application to support professional development activities and technical assistance for educators, school support staff, school leaders and school health professionals to address the social, emotional and mental health needs of students. In this section, LEAs are asked to describe the activities they have designed to address these needs.

7. Calculate 10% of LEA Allocation as the **MINIMUM REQUIRED RESERVE** for Social and Emotional Learning Professional Development. (Calculation will populate when you click the Save button)

- This value will be needed in the corresponding budget section.

	Total LEA Allocation	Multiply by 10% (.10)	Minimum Allocation for SEL PD
Minimum 10% SEL PD Requirement	125,613	10%	12,561

8. Describe the planned professional development activities and how the activity will ensure that teachers/staff are equipped with training/support on the following:
- Social emotional learning and support for students that have suffered trauma during the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - Identifying signs of possible mental health issues and providing culturally relevant support;
 - Motivating students that have been disengaged;
 - Mentoring students who have attendance issues before it becomes a pattern;
 - Self-care and mindfulness strategies for teachers;
 - Engaging and communicating effectively with parents;
 - Working with community agencies to address non-academic needs.

Professional Development Activity	Number of Staff Involved	Type of Staff Involved (Teacher, Counselor, Support Staff, Admin, Other)	Provider – Who will present the professional development	Is the provider an internal staff member or an outside contractor?	Brief Description of the Planned Activity
e. Self-care and mindfulness strategies for teachers;	34	Other	Dr. Hunt – Eclipse	External Contractor	All school staff will be involved in training. Dr. Hunt will provide social emotional strategies for staff members impacted by COVID-19. These strategies will assist them in becoming better effective teachers when dealing with scholars.

9. How will the LEA assess the success of the SEL professional development? Please identify the tool, frequency of use, and expected results.

Tool Used to Evaluate Success	Frequency of Use	Expected Results
Teacher Evaluation	2x a year	Improvement in overall teaching ability

Section 3c - Reading Improvement for Students:

LEA allocations in Reading improvement should be used to increase the best practice in the implementation of research-based reading instruction and acceleration. As schools are planning the most effective use for this 8% set aside for reading instruction and acceleration, they should contemplate the use of structured literacy (also known as Science of Literacy) to develop reading instruction and remediation. Please reference the Structured Literacy framework to assist in developing this plan [LINK NEEDED](#)

LEAs are required to utilize **A MINIMUM of EIGHT PERCENT (8%)** of their ARP-ESSER allocation for research-based reading instruction. In this section, describe the course of action to remediate and improve reading gaps through research-based practices.

10. Calculate 8% of LEA Allocation as the **MINIMUM REQUIRED RESERVE** for Reading Improvement for Students. (Calculation will populate when you click the Save button)

- This value will be needed in the corresponding budget section.

	Total LEA Allocation	Multiply by 8% (.08)	Minimum Allocation for Reading Improvement
Minimum 8% Reading Improvement Requirement	125,613	8%	10,049

11. What local assessments were used to determine the need to address learning loss in the area of reading? For which specific groups of students was this need evidenced? What were the findings?

Universal Vare utilized the research based program Iready to assess the reading loss. The assessments included baseline data and Benchmark tests three times a year. The findings were scholars average between 1 to 2 grade levels below in reading.

12. Does your data indicate that at-risk readers are making at least a year's worth of growth or more in one school year? *Please consider both state PVAAS data and local assessment data

No

Please explain:

According to the data it states that the scholars are not making a year's worth of growth or more.

13. Has the LEA used structured literacy and/or provided training for K-4, ESL, and Special Education teachers in structured literacy?

No

If so, please identify the training, grade level, and number of teachers involved.

Training	Grade Level / ESL / Special Education	Number of Teachers Trained

14. Describe the evidence-based instructional intervention(s) that address the identified needs of students most disproportionately impacted.

Intervention	Student Group	Number of Students Receiving Intervention	Brief Description of Intervention
Eureka Math Program	Children from Low-Income Families	214	Universal VARE scholars will utilize the Eureka program to increase their overall mathematics success.
Wit & Wisdom	Children from Low-Income Families	214	Universal scholars will use Wit & Wisdom to increase their overall academic reading ability.

Intervention	Student Group	Number of Students Receiving Intervention	Brief Description of Intervention
iReady	Children from Low-Income Families	214	Universal VARE scholars will take the baseline assessment for iReady reading and math. They will be assigned individualized lessons called MyPath to increase their overall math and reading abilities.

15. How will the LEA assess the success of the literacy program? Please identify the tool, frequency of use, and expected results.

Tool Used to Evaluate Success	Frequency of Use	Expected Results
iReady benchmarks and assessments	3 times a year	Increase in overall reading levels with scholars in grades 5th thru 8th

Section 3d - Other Learning Loss Activities: LEAs are permitted to utilize the remainder of their allocation to support and/or supplement additional efforts being implemented to combat learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Please use this section to describe those efforts.

***This value can be UP TO 52% of the total allocation, if minimum values were used for other reserves.**

16. Calculate 52% of the remaining LEA Allocation **AS A MAXIMUM** amount to fund Other Learning Loss Activities. (Calculation will populate when you click the Save button)

	Total LEA Allocation	Multiply by 52% (.52)	Maximum Allocation for Other Learning Loss Activities
52% Other Learning Loss Activities	125,613	52%	65,319

17. Describe the evidence-based instructional intervention(s) that address the identified needs of students most disproportionately impacted.

Intervention	Student Group	Number of Students Receiving Intervention	Brief Description of Intervention
Reading Correctives-McGraw Hill	Children with Disabilities	55	Scholars meet with the SPED teacher to receive skills-based instruction in groups according to their instructional deficits
Math Correctives-McGraw Hill	Children with Disabilities	55	Scholars meet with the SPED teacher to receive skills-based instruction in groups according to their instructional deficits
IReady Reading and Math	Children from Low-Income Families	225	Teacher assigned assignments to support instructional deficits according to their MyPath

18. How will the LEA assess the success of the learning loss activities? Please identify the tool, frequency of use, and expected results.

Tool Used to Evaluate Success	Frequency of Use	Expected Results
IReady Reading Math program	3 times a year	Increase in overall Reading and Math levels with scholars in grades 5th thru 8th

Section: Budget - Social and Emotional Learning Budget

Social and Emotional Learning Budget

Budget

\$125,613.00

Allocation

\$125,613.00

Budget Over(Under) Allocation

\$0.00

Enter your calculated value for the 30% Social and Emotional Learning set aside requirement. (Round Up to the whole dollar)

37,834

Budget Summary

Function	Object	Amount	Description
2100 - SUPPORT SERVICES – STUDENTS	100 - Salaries	\$74,899.57	Salary for Climate Control Specialist for 2 years
2100 - SUPPORT SERVICES – STUDENTS	200 - Benefits	\$9,474.80	Benefits for Climate Control Specialist for 2 years
		\$84,374.37	

Section: Budget - Social and Emotional Learning Professional Development Budget

Social and Emotional Learning Professional Development Budget

Budget

\$125,613.00

Allocation

\$125,613.00

Budget Over(Under) Allocation

\$0.00

Enter your calculated value for the 10% Social and Emotional Learning Professional Development set aside requirement. (Round Up to the whole dollar)

12,562

Budget Summary

Function	Object	Amount	Description
2200 - Staff Support Services	300 - Purchased Professional and Technical Services	\$13,500.00	Eclipse SEL PD (3 years)
		\$13,500.00	

Section: Budget - Reading Improvement Budget

Reading Improvement Budget

Budget

\$125,613.00

Allocation

\$125,613.00

Budget Over(Under) Allocation

\$0.00

Enter your calculated value for the 8% Reading Improvement set aside requirement. (Round Up to the whole dollar)

10,049

Budget Summary

Function	Object	Amount	Description
1100 - REGULAR PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	600 - Supplies	\$21,990.00	Curriculum Associates - I Ready
		\$21,990.00	

Section: Budget - Other Learning Loss Expenditures

Learning Loss Budget

Calculate the remaining LEA Allocation amount to fund Other Learning Loss Activities. Please enter **Budget Totals** from the **SEL, SEL PD, and Reading Improvement budget sections** to determine what funds are remaining for Other Learning Loss Activities. Click Save to calculate the value, and then this budget section Total should be equal this amount. (Calculation will populate when you click the Save button)

	Total LEA Allocation	30% SEL Budgeted Value	10% SEL PD Budgeted Value	8% Reading Improvement Budgeted Value	Remaining Allocation for Other Learning Loss Activities
Other Learning Loss Activities Amount	125,613	84,374	13,500	21,990	5,749

Learning Loss Expenditures

Budget

\$125,613.00

Allocation

\$125,613.00

Budget Over(Under) Allocation

\$0.00

Budget Overview

Function	Object	Amount	Description
1100 - REGULAR PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	600 - Supplies	\$5,748.63	Eureka Math Supplies/resources
		\$5,748.63	

Section: Budget - Budget Summary

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Budget

\$125,613.00

Allocation

\$125,613.00

Budget Over(Under) Allocation

\$0.00

BUDGET SUMMARY

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
1000 Instruction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1100 REGULAR PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,738.63	\$0.00	\$27,738.63
1200 SPECIAL PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1300 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1400 Other Instructional Programs – Elementary / Secondary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1600 * ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1700 Higher								

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
Education Programs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1800 Pre-K	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2000 SUPPORT SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2100 SUPPORT SERVICES – STUDENTS	\$74,899.57	\$9,474.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$84,374.37
2200 Staff Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,500.00
2300 SUPPORT SERVICES – ADMINISTRATION	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2400 Health Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2500 Business Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2600 Operation and Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2700 Student Transportation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2800 Central Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3000 OPERATION OF NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3100 Food Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
3200 Student Activities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3300 Community Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4000 FACILITIES ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$74,899.57	\$9,474.80	\$13,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,738.63	\$0.00	\$125,613.00
Approved Indirect Cost/Operational Rate: 0.0000								\$0.00
Final								\$125,613.00