

From the Desk of the Superintendent...

Recovering the Learning: CPS's Plan to Rebuild Our Students' Education

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a nationwide impact on students academically, socially, and emotionally. Colchester Public Schools is formulating a solid plan for commitment in key strategic areas to strengthen our response to the pandemic's profound impact. To this end, the Federal government has released stimulus funds targeted at assisting school districts in these efforts. Colchester plans to utilize ESSER III and American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds to support programming aimed at "recovering the learning" lost during the pandemic. Without these temporary funds, which are beyond normal operational costs, we would not be able to fill learning gaps, address individual student needs, and ensure our District is well positioned to rebound from the effects of the pandemic.

Here is how we envision utilizing these funds in support of our **Recovering the Learning Plan**:

1. **Backfill Lost Learning and Continue Intervention**- A critical investment of these funds will be to provide short-term programming for students to address lost learning. We are formulating our approach for providing necessary academic and emotional supports to those students most impacted by the pandemic. The hiring of intervention and support staff, as well as the expansion of after-school programming will provide us with the staff needed to "catch-up" students who experienced the greatest loss. These positions will be temporary (2 years), and the persons who fill them will be dedicated to closing any learning gaps that were formed in the past year.
2. **Accelerate the Core** - We will also utilize ESSER III and ARPA funding to hire additional and critical instructional staff to provide universal access to foundational programs such as preschool for all students. Ensuring access to high-quality instruction at ages 3 and 4 will ensure that students have a smooth transition into kindergarten and that they are provided with a solid base from which to learn for years to come. The use of temporary staff for intervention is crucial to fulfilling the needs of our students.

We also plan to continue our flexibility in responding to the needs of our students in the ever-changing environment of this pandemic, while simultaneously striving to reach long-term planning goals. Some of these initiatives include the purchase of additional educational materials and implementation of rapidly evolving safety and health technologies and practices to maintain the healthiest school environments possible. As we enter the next era of our pandemic response, we will continue to prioritize the academic, social, emotional, and physical well-being of our school community. I am grateful to teachers, staff, and the entire community

of Colchester for coming together to provide the best possible learning experience for our students.

Warmest regards,

Jeffrey E. Burt
Superintendent of Schools