

ITEM FOR ACTION – CONSENT AGENDA**GRANT EXPENDITURE AUTHORIZATION****SUMMARY**

The district has been invited to apply for a grant that may be used for capital expenditures and requires school board approval if they are over \$25,000 in value. The Teaching & Learning Department plans to use a portion of the grant funds to build two pre-K playgrounds at Chehalem and Kinnaman Elementary Schools. Because the value of these playgrounds is estimated to exceed \$25,000, board authorization is requested in order to comply with the stated grant requirement.

BACKGROUND

Under the American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 (ARP Act or ARPA), the State of Oregon awarded Beaverton School District an Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) Round III Grant. The specific ESSER Round III grant that is the subject of this item is known as the Kindergarten Jump Start (KJS) grant. In summary, the KJS grant is intended to focus on transitioning our youngest students into our K–12 system.

The district's specific use of these grant funds, in alignment with this general purpose, involves providing students with safe outdoor playground and social learning space. This allows students more opportunities to social distance and interact in a space with adequate air circulation. Schools would utilize the added play structures during our kindergarten jumpstart program to familiarize children with them and to begin to teach the children how to use the play structure safely.

The district plans to use a portion of the Kindergarten Jump Start grant funds to build two pre-K playgrounds at Chehalem and Kinnaman Elementary Schools. Approval of this use of these ESSER III grant funds for this purpose will allow the district to fulfill its grant obligations and ensure funding is available for pre-K accessible playgrounds at all schools that require them. The district's Risk Management Department has done a thorough analysis of existing play structures and found that they may not be accessed or used by children under 5 years of age, leaving no play structure access for those students at schools without pre-K playgrounds. William Walker, Hazeldale and Vose Elementary Schools currently have playgrounds to support their pre-K programs. Existing 2022 bond funds are available to add pre-K playgrounds at other schools with pre-K programs, and projects have been approved for Fir Grove and Elmonica Elementary Schools to be built by fall of 2024.

Any contracts for the design and/or installation of these playgrounds will be procured in accordance with ORS 279 and applicable district policies. If these contracts exceed \$150,000 in value, they will be brought to the board for approval prior to execution.

RECOMMENDATION

The superintendent recommends the board approve the use of ESSER III grant funds for the capital expenditures described.

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