



February 4, 2021

To: Andrea Oquist, Superintendent

From: Alison Smith, Director of Finance

Re: ESSER Grant Update

Under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund), the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools in Michigan.

To date our district has received \$1,011,387 through the ESSER Formula Grant and MDE approval is anticipated shortly on an additional \$161,821 through a competitively awarded ESSER Education Equity Grant. We have used the ESSER Formula Grant funds on staffing to help minimize class size to have a positive impact on student learning and to achieve maximum physical distancing as a mitigation measure against the spread of COVID-19. If awarded, the ESSER Education Equity Grant funds will be used to purchase student mobile devices to replace other devices that are nearing the end of their useful life.

A second round of ESSER Funds have been awarded by the federal government to states. At least 90% of the funds must be allocated to LEAs. Districts have yet to learn of the actual award amount, but on January 25 the Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency published an estimate of the ESSER II allocations. Their estimate of Livonia Public Schools portion of the 90% is \$4,297,541. Of the remaining 10%, half a percent may be reserved by the state for administration and 9.5% (considered the state's discretionary portion) will be available for either additional formula grants or for emergency needs, as determined by MDE. On January 19 the Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators shared their estimate of district's ESSER II discretionary allocations. Their estimate of Livonia Public Schools portion, which is based on Fall 2020 Special Education FTE and overall Fall 2020 FTE Count, is \$5,911,405.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds may be used for a number of activities, including COVID-19 response coordination; resources for school leaders; activities to address the unique needs of low-income children, children with disabilities, English language learners, minority students, students

experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth; systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of school districts; training on and supplies for sanitation and cleaning; planning and coordination of school closures including the provision of meals; purchasing of technology; mental health services; summer and after-school learning programs; learning loss mitigation; facility repairs and improvements; and projects to improve indoor air quality in schools. In addition, funds may be used for other activities necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in school districts and to continue to employ existing staff.

Please add this topic to the February 8, 2021 Finance Committee meeting.

AS/kp

c: Board of Education