

Thousand Islands CSD

2021-2022 School Year Plan for American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds

The 2021-22 enacted state budget included language requiring each district receiving federal ARP funding to post to its website a plan on how the funds will be expended and how the district will prioritize spending on non-recurring expenses in the following areas:

- (1) Safely returning students to in-person instruction, and**
- (2) Maximizing in-person instruction time**

During the 2020-2021 school year, Thousand Islands CSD provided in-person instruction all 180 days of the school year, to all students. Because of our ability to remain open, our students did not experience the interrupted instruction and learning loss to the extent that other districts across the state did. We were able to accomplish in-person instruction during the 2020-2021 school year by having adequate staffing to allow for smaller class sizes and having adequate classroom space to allow for social distancing. The district also provided PPE to staff and students and increased sanitizing and cleaning in buildings and on buses. The district does not have a need to use ARP funds in these areas.

- (3) Purchasing educational technology**

The district currently has exceptional educational technology for all students. The district has an adequate supply of Chromebooks for all students. Each classroom in the district is equipped with a smartboard. The district has funded educational technology through the use of these streams: ERATE, BOCES Aid through the use of leases, Instructional Materials Aid and Smart Schools Bond Act Funds. The district does not have a need to use AFP funds in this area.

- (4) Supporting early childhood education & operating schools and meeting the needs of students**

Thousand Islands CSD will use ARP funds to start a full-day prekindergarten program for 4-year-olds. 2021-2022 will be the first school year for the program. The program design will be centered around play-based learning and purposeful play. The District has plans to make the prekindergarten program innovative, creative and exciting for students while remaining compliant with the requirements of Education Law §3602-ee – Statewide Universal Full-Day Prekindergarten Program and the New York State Prekindergarten Early Learning Standards. The program will be adequately staffed with qualified teachers and support professionals. The district will screen each child and determine if early intervention services are warranted. Progress monitoring and outcomes will be measured by both teachers and administration. The district recognizes that student outcomes are also impacted by the students' health and well-being. The district will promote healthy eating and physical activity knowing that those things have a bearing on a students' ability to learn. The learning environment will be exciting and properly suited for 4-year-olds offering seating in small groups and different learning stations situated around the classrooms to promote learning through play and collaboration. Learning units will focus on the standards and will have focus questions and student outcome goals. The learning units will also promote family engagement at home.

(5) Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs & operating schools and meeting the needs of students

The district will use ARP funds to hire a social worker for the first time in 2021-2022. The social worker will help meet the students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs through multiple strategies. The social worker will participate in IEP meetings and IEP counseling, work through problems in a child's living situation that affect the child's adjustment in school, assist in implementing a multi-tiered system of supports, develop intervention strategies to increase academic success, crisis intervention, develop staff in-service trainings, classroom observations, strengthen the school-home connection and support district staff as needed.

(6) Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs, and academic needs & operating schools and meeting the needs of students

The district will run an after-school program for Middle School and High School students called ASAP, After School Academic Program. ASAP will support students who need a little extra help with a concept or assignment. This could be beneficial to students who are struggling to catch up after an absence. The program will offer students a quiet place to work. ASAP will be staffed with certified teachers and support staff willing to assist with homework, organization and skill building. The program will run daily after school for approximately one hour. This is not a punitive program. Transportation will be provided for all students.

The district may run a summer school program with courses being offered based on student need, staffing availability, and graduation requirements. Courses would be offered as repeat courses over three-week intervals. Courses would be scheduled in either an early or mid-day session for student flexibility. Courses would typically run 4 days per week for an estimated 3 hours per day. A special education teacher would be available to support IEP needs. The district may offer an elective such as a 45-hour health course for credit accrual. These offerings would be free to district resident students. Transportation would be provided for resident students.

(7) Addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, including the impacts of the interrupted instruction and learning loss and the impacts on low-income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness

Although our district remained open to all students during the 2020-2021 school year, we still need to address interrupted instruction and learning loss for our students due to public health quarantines of both students and staff. The social worker, teachers, administrators and counselors will work together to identify students who may be at greater risk of being impacted by the pandemic. Those students will receive additional academic and social emotional support from teachers and our counseling staff. Academic support may be achieved through the ASAP program or summer school program. With the addition of a school social worker to the district, students will now have better access to strategies to cope with the impacts of the pandemic.

The following programs will continue beyond the availability of federal funds and we will use the following local funds in order to minimize disruption to core academic and other school programs.

Thousand Islands CSD will continue to provide the high quality, well-rounded education that it has become known for. Enhancement coursework such as AP classes, Honors programs, BOCES certification programs, etc. will continue to meet the needs and challenges of our students. The stimulus funds will be used to enhance the overall education and specifically focus on the area of any learning loss due to the pandemic.