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ARP-ESSER III Funds Plan

Overview

The purpose of ESSER III in general is to award subgrants to school districts and other educational entities such as Wilco Area Career Center to address the impact COVID-19 has had and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools. The aim of ESSER III funding is to enable Wilco to develop a plan for the “safe return to in-person learning and continuity of services for the purpose of promoting transparency and accountability for funds usage” by the Center.

Wilco Allotment

Wilco has received an ESSER III allotment from the Illinois State Board of Education of \$197,127. The funds may be utilized through September 30, 2024.

Required Use of Funds

Per grant guidelines, Wilco must expend a minimum of 20 percent of their grant funds to address “the academic impact of lost instructional time” (aka learning loss). Wilco Area Career Center can spend these funds on:

1. Evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning, extended day comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs; and
2. Ensure interventions respond to students’ academic, social, emotional and mental health needs and address the disproportionate impact of coronavirus on student populations as defined in ESEA, Title I, Part A, students experiencing homelessness, students with disabilities, migratory students and youth in foster care.

To that end, Wilco has decided to focus the use of funds on the following items:

- Professional Development: comprehensive Literacy strategies, high-quality instructional materials, professional development stipends, technology integration training;
- Extended Instructional Time: high-dosage tutoring, summer learning;
- Staffing: tutors, reduced class sizes, small group instruction, instructional coaching and leadership;
- Facilities: ventilation, cleaning, specialized instructional spaces;
- Student Supports: technology, supplies and materials, certification expenses for low income students;
- Mental Health and Behavioral Supports: teacher training and programming along with wrap-around and community partnerships.

Evaluation

Wilco will continue to monitor the needs of our students and staff to determine specific funding needs and additional supports to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.