



# Kenmore - Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District

## *American Recovery Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Plan*

The Kenmore - Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District has been allocated approximately \$11.6 million in Federal relief funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP). The ARP Act requires LEAs (Local Education Agencies) to reserve at least 20% of their 90% ARP-ESSER allocation to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on economically disadvantaged students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care. This Federal funding falls into several broad categories, will be available over a three-year period of time, and must be used to address needs brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a brief overview of our plan for this funding.

Federal Stimulus Funding has been allocated to the district in three forms:

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) - March 2020
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act (CRRSA) - December 2020
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) - March 2021:** *Addressed in this document*

Of this total, \$3,000,000 (26%) is specifically earmarked for summer programming and supports to address learning loss. These learning programs are represented by the following areas:

### ***Expanded Learning Opportunities (Summer Programs)***

- Expanded Summer Support Program for K-12 students
  - High School - Credit Recovery
  - Middle School - Summer Reading and Math Programs
  - Elementary School - Summer Reading and Math Programs

### ***Expanded Learning Opportunities (During the School Day)***

- Professional Development for teachers to address Social Emotional wellness of students
- Enhanced curriculum
  - Digital curriculum and resources to support expanded remote learning opportunities for students consistent with the instructional technology goals of the district.
  - Curriculum resources that align with instructional best practices for high-impact strategies to increase student engagement and accelerate learning.
- Building-based substitutes for greater continuity in programs

### ***Expanded Learning Opportunities (Beyond the School Day)***

- After school tutoring

### ***Virtual Supports***

- Additional licenses of iReady to assess student learning and provide differentiated instruction
- Data analysis tools to better determine areas of need in order to target supports

## **GOAL**

*The Kenmore - Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District remains committed to safely returning students and staff to in-person instruction, following the New York State and Local Health Department regulations. As soon as the updated guidance is released for the 2021-22 school year, the District will review and update the plan to return to in-person instruction.*

## Areas of Spending

*While the Ken-Ton UFSD has been able to gradually re-introduce and increase in-person instruction throughout the 19-20 School Year, we expect to be able to provide in-person instruction on all days for all students K-12 beginning in September 2021. In order to support a full K-12 in-person model of instruction, the Ken-Ton UFSD is planning for some non-recurring expenses in the area of safely returning students to in-person instruction.*

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Cleaning supplies
- Bottle fillers
- Resources to improve safety and health measures in the school buildings
- Invest in hardware and infrastructure to improve safety and security measures in the school buildings
- Professional development for teachers on best practices for ensuring student safety
- Family engagement efforts to provide training and or activities to support collaborative partnerships to improve student safety

*The Ken-Ton UFSD has been able to gradually re-introduce and increase in-person instruction throughout the 19-20 School Year. We plan to use ARP-ESSER funds for non-recurring expenses in the area of maximizing in-person instruction time.*

- Increase opportunities for student support within the school day
- Digital resources to improve service provision opportunities for accelerated learning
- Additional building based substitutes to maximize continuity and access which will ensure maximum in-person instruction time
- Digital curriculum tools to support extended (remote) learning opportunities
- Continue to search and implement strategic programming leading towards graduation as well as alternate pathways to graduation

***Ken-Ton UFSD plans to use ARP-ESSER funds for non-recurring expenses in the area of operating schools and meeting the needs of students.***

- Assessment tools to determine areas of student need
- Structural improvements for operating safe and healthy schools
- Equipment upgrades and improvements for school cafeterias

***During the 19-20 School Year, the Ken-Ton UFSD spent significant unplanned funds on instructional technology to expedite the district plans for 1:1 student devices. This was necessary to support remote learning during the pandemic. In order to sustain, improve and grow embedded instructional technology in our classrooms, we plan to use ARP-ESSER funds for non-recurring expenses in the area of purchasing educational technology.***

- Refresh student/teacher devices
- Increase technology in instructional spaces
- Upgrade technology infrastructure to meet the need of additional devices
- Professional Development for teachers to enhance use of technology in the classroom
- Community-based connectivity options

***Our plans for non-recurring expenses in the area of addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, including the impacts of interrupted instruction and learning loss and the impacts on low-income students, children with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness.***

- Enhance WIFI connectivity for students experiencing needs
- Specialized digital curricular resources to support expanded (digital) learning options for students with specific learning needs
- Expanded learning opportunities within the school day specially designed for students with specific learning needs
- Resources to support parent and community centers to ensure available access to services for students with specialized needs

***The Ken-Ton UFSD will be providing dedicated professional development in the area of social-emotional health and academic needs. Thus, our plans for non-recurring expenses in the area of implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs will be to provide assurance all teachers have access to this needed professional development.***

- Professional development in the areas of mental health and social/emotional wellness
- Professional development for Human Resources and teams to find new innovative ways to attract and secure a more diverse workforce
- Training for parents and community to support student social, emotional and mental health needs

***In order to target learning gaps resulting from the pandemic and subsequent shifts to remote instruction, we plan to use ARP-ESSER funding for non-recurring expenses in the area of offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs.***

- Expanded Summer School
- Increase before/after school programs and tutoring
- Expanded opportunities within the school day to address learning needs
- Resources to support accelerated and enrichment learning opportunities within and beyond the school day
- Invest in learning management systems that support remote interactive learning opportunities for students
- Enhanced parental communication efforts to regularly provide updates on student progress and performance

***In order to assist with preparing our youngest learners for beginning education, our plans for non-recurring expenses in the area of supporting early childhood education are specific to the expansion of pre-k programming.***

- One time expenditures to enhance Universal Pre-Kindergarten
- Classroom equipment and furniture to support our youngest learners
- Specialized equipment to support the physical and emotional learning needs of pre-k students

***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.***

- The District will continue to support efforts to expand pre-kindergarten learning opportunities for your youngest learners to improve readiness for school programming
- The District will continue to review programming and pathways for all students to support specialized learning needs and interests and ensure multiple options for students to successfully achieve graduation requirements