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William Thompson
Chief School Administrator

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ARP – ESSER Use of Funds Plan

1. The extent to which and how the funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies that are to the greatest practicable consistent with the most CDC guidance on reopening schools in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;

The district will continue to follow updated guidance from the NJ DOH, CDC, and the NJ DOE. Funds will be used to purchase cleaning and disinfectant supplies. Hand sanitizing stations will be positioned throughout the building. Funds will be used to make sure students have appropriate PPE including face masks, gloves, etc. Furthermore, funds will be used to upgrade our HVAC system to ensure fresh air is infused into classrooms, to the greatest extent possible.

2. How the LEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions such as summer learning or summer enrichment extended day comprehensive afterschool programs or extended school year;

Funds will be used to provide all students with an opportunity to attend our district's Summer Academy program. The Summer Academy program will provide all students with an opportunity to receive remediation and enrichment in the areas of Mathematics, Language Arts, and STEM. Furthermore, funds will be used to provide students with before school and after school opportunities to receive remediation in Mathematics and Language Arts. Lastly, funds will be used to provide students with necessary ESY services and programs.

3. How the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act;

Funds will be used for technology upgrades including Chromebooks, desktops, printers, bandwidth, and classroom projectors. Funds will also be used for Language Arts, Mathematics, and STEM resources.

4. How the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions implemented under section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act to address the academic impact of lost instructional time, will respond to the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including students from low-income families, students of color, English learners, children with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, and migratory students. Under this requirement, an LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders and give the public an opportunity to provide input in the development of its plan. Specifically, an LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with students; families; school and district administrators (including special

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education administrators); and teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions.

The District will utilize funds to implement a character education program. Harmony SEL is a social and emotional learning program for PreK-6 grade students. Harmony fosters knowledge, skills and attitudes boys and girls need to develop healthy identities, create meaningful relationships, and engage productively by providing SEL learning resources, tools, and strategies. For more information regarding this evidence-based approach, please visit the Harmony SEL website. Furthermore, the district will invest in a student-centered STEM center that addresses students academic and SEL needs. The district went through the Strategic Planning process in 2019-2020. After meeting with and involving a diverse group of stakeholders, the district adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2020-2024. The Strategic Plan identifies Academic Excellence and SEL as key goal areas, and ARP funds will be used to meet these goals. Furthermore, the district had a special Board of Education meeting on June 22, 2021 to share its Safe Reopening Plan with the public and to solicit public comment.

5. Additionally, an LEA must engage in meaningful consultation with each of the following, to the extent present in or served by the LEA: Tribes, civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory student, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

The District went through the Strategic Planning process in 2019-2020. After meeting with and involving a diverse group of stakeholders, the district adopted a new Strategic Plan for 2020-2024. The Strategic Plan identifies Academic Excellence and SEL as key goal areas, and ARP funds will be used to meet these goals. Furthermore, the district had a special Board of Education meeting on June 22, 2021, to share its Safe Reopening Plan with the public and to solicit public comment.