American Rescue Plan 2021 Whitehall District Schools - 61240

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

Beginning with the 2022-23 school year, the school district continues to keep class sizes smaller than pre-pandemic. in order to mitigate viral spread. Masks will continue to be required when infection rates are high. Additional custodial staff and cleaning remains in place to ensure clean facilities and mitigate the spread of any virus or germs HVAC facility repairs have been made and will continue upgrades to provide better air quality and ventilation. Staff are also encouraged to teach outside when possible. While virtual options are available, the goal has been to remain in-person as much as possible.

Please describe how the LEA will use the funds it reserves under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (see below) 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:

Whitehall District Schools will use the 20% reserve to address the academic impact of the pandemic by providing in-school acceleration through teacher use of data, progress monitoring and high dosage daily tutoring in small groups for reading and math. Teachers will have smaller classes and time to collaborate, review data, and address students' needs.

Whitehall will continue to use 31a and other state and federal funds to provide interventions after school and during the summer.

Please describe how the LEA will spend its remaining ARP ESSER funds consistent with section 2001(e)(2) of the ARP Act.

In addition to the smaller class size with in-school acceleration model and after school/summer interventions, Whitehall will use the ESSER III funds to provide certified teachers to support on-line/virtual students, and school counselors to provide explicit teaching of social and emotional skills to address the needs of both students and staff.

Please describe how the LEA will ensure that the interventions it implements, including but not limited to the interventions implemented under section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act (see below) 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. Whitehall district schools will ensure that the smaller class size with in-school acceleration via high dosage daily tutoring is implemented via our MTSS system. Our established MTSS system includes monitoring of both academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of students on a 6 week basis.

Behavior data is reviewed by our PBIS teams at each building, along with SRSS (Student Risk Screening Scale) data that helps staff at all levels identify students who are at risk for social-emotional and behavioral issues. Each school has a school social worker and school counselor to review the SRSS data and ensure student social-emotional needs are addressed via individual, small group or whole class lessons.

Academic data is reviewed by our MTSS team and grade level teams every 6 weeks. Teachers review benchmark and progress monitoring data and use that to create high dosage daily tutoring small groups to accelerate student learning with the support of the literacy coach. The School Leadership team will analyze data for the progress of district subgroups and students from our families that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The MTSS and SLT teams will monitor the students included in the in-school acceleration of high dosage tutoring and their progress. If they need additional interventions such as after-school tutoring or summer learning, our Student Support Team, along with grade level teams, will refer students to those programs.