

American Rescue Plan Act Overview

City School District of the City of Niagara Falls

Mark R. Laurie, Superintendent

June 24, 2021

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

- The Niagara Falls City School District pledges to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff by:
- Adhering to all New York State Department of Health and CDC safety recommendations including:
 - Physical distancing
 - Appropriate mask wearing
 - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
 - Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
 - Proper ventilation
 - Use of Isolation Rooms
 - Contact tracing with isolation and quarantining
 - Providing access to diagnostic and screening testing
 - Coordinating vaccination pods
 - Continuous communication and posting on the District website
- The Superintendent of Schools will be the person responsible for coordination and leadership on all issues related to the safe return and continuity of services. He will work in conjunction with the Board of Education, Niagara County Health Department, School Medical Director and District established COVID-19 Stakeholder Response Team.

NFCSD American Rescue Plan Act – Public Comment

- Prior to the District's ARP plan becoming final, it will be posted publicly to allow for public comments. The District encourages all of its stakeholders to comment on the plan via the email address established for this purpose. Public comments on this plan will be considered as the District finalizes this plan
- Public Comment Email: mlaurrie@nfschools.net
- The final ARP plan for the Niagara Falls City School District will be posted on the website prior to July 1, 2021

American Rescue
Plan &
Foundation Aid
Funding

Niagara Falls City
School District
American Rescue
Plan (ARP Act)
2021-2022 School
Year

Plan Requirements:

- All public school districts, Local Educational Agency, (LEA) participating in the American Recovery Rescue Plan (ARP) are required to establish a plan for the usage of the ARP funds that complies with the program's guidelines. These guidelines further state that the ARP plan created by the District should allow for the continuation of the programs or program related items beyond the availability of these federal funds.
- Prior to the District's ARP plan becoming final, it will be posted publicly to allow for public comments. The District encourages all of its stakeholders to comment on the plan via the email address established for this purpose. Public comments on this plan will be considered as the District finalizes this plan.

District Allocation

| ARP Grant Funding | Amounts (Estimated per June 18, 2021) |
|--|---|
| <p>Total ARP – Niagara Falls City School District</p> | <p>\$30,117,034 to be spent through 9/30/2024</p> |
| <p>20% for Learning Loss</p> | <p>\$6,023,407</p> |
| <p>Because the per pupil funding is in excess of \$500, a minimum funding schedule applies as outlined to the right. The remaining 50% of the funds may be spent at the district's discretion (\$15,058,517) through September 30, 2024.</p> | <p>2021 – 2022: \$3,764,629 (12.5% of allocation) 2022 – 2023: \$5,646,944 (18.75% of allocation) 2023 – 2024: \$5,646,944 (18.75% of allocation)</p> |

Instructional Programming

- Each LEA must use a minimum of 20% of its allocation to address learning loss related to the COVID public health crisis

Interventions must be evidenced-based and target those students most impacted by the crisis, such as:

- Students with Disabilities
- English Language Learners
- Low-income students

Instructional Programming:
All evidence-based interventions must address one or more of the categories of need listed.

- Strategies or programs to address the needs of high risk student groups
- Strategies or programs to address academic learning loss
- Programs to extend learning opportunities, both remedial and enrichment, beyond the regular school day (summer, before or after school)
- Strategies or programs to meet students' social and emotional learning needs

Instructional Programming: Elementary Enrichment and Interventions

- **Literacy:** The District proposes selecting and training eight (8) additional teachers in Reading Recovery to provide Tier 3 services to the lowest performing 1st grade pupils in all elementary schools. Estimated ARP cost: \$720,000 annually, or 2,160,000 over three years.
- **Literacy:** The District proposes purchasing supplemental reading materials to support delivery of differentiated reading instruction in grades Kindergarten, 1 and 2. Estimated nonrenewable cost: \$125,000.
- **STEM:** The District proposes selecting an additional teacher to provide enriched, project-based instruction to pupils in grades Kindergarten, 1 and 2 at the Primary Sister Schools. Estimated ARPA cost: \$90,000 per year or \$270,000 over 3 years.

Instructional Programming: Elementary Enrichment and Interventions

Elementary Mathematics – renewable expenses:

- Elementary Enrichment and Academic Intervention Service Programming:

The District proposes selecting 12 teachers and Teaching Assistants to provide enrichment and Tier 2 mathematics intervention to grades Kindergarten to 6 students in all 8 elementary schools. Estimated ARP cost per year: \$1,900,000, or \$5,700,000 over 3 years.

Elementary Mathematics – nonrenewable expenses:

- Curriculum supplies and materials for providing direct instruction to students. Estimated ARP cost: \$150,000.
- Professional development for Enrichment and Academic Intervention Service Program teachers, TAs, classroom teachers and physical education Teachers. Estimated ARPA cost: \$35,000.

Instructional Programming: Prep and High School

- **Cross-Disciplinary Pedagogy Coaching: Prep Schools**

The District proposes selecting and training two Instructional Strategies coaches, one per school, to support instructors in planning and delivering classroom activities which focus, engage, and challenge all pupils. Approximate ARP cost: \$180,000 per year, or \$540,000 over 3 years.

- **Summer Credit Recovery**

The District proposes funding credit recovery services for students in need, grades 9 – 12, to include electives and all Regents courses. Programming will require hiring District teachers, teaching assistants, technology integrators and pupil support staff such as coordinators and counselors and/or social workers. Estimated ARPA cost: \$200,000 per year or \$600,000 over three years.

Instructional Programming: High School

- The District proposes forming a Post Secondary Success Team at NFHS to monitor student progress, support credit accrual and connect students with internship and work-based learning hours. The Team will include three (3) work-based Learning Coordinators, two (2) school counselors, two (2) Pupil Service Assistants and one (1) Teaching Assistant. Estimated ARP cost: \$640,000 per year or \$1,920,000 over 3 years.
- The District proposes creating a "Credit Recovery/Late Flex" program for pupils who lack the necessary credits for graduation, or have otherwise been identified as at-risk of dropping out early in their high school career. The program will be run throughout the school year, and include classes embedded within the school day and after regular school hours. Staff will include a program coordinator, school counselor and/or social worker, attendance interventionist, and multiple District teachers. Estimated ARP cost: \$315,000 per year or \$945,000 over 3 years.

Instructional Programming: Culturally Responsive- Sustaining Education and Social-Emotional Supports

School Climate and SEL Support - renewable expenses:

- The District proposes hiring five (5) additional social workers to provide Tier 3 supports to at-risk students and families. Estimated ARP cost: \$450,000 per year or \$1,350,000 over 3 years.

School Climate and SEL Support - nonrenewable expenses

- The District proposes partnering with the National Federation of Just Communities to provide staff development aimed at creating a welcoming environment for all pupils and families. Estimated ARP cost: \$40,000.

2021 – 2022

District
Technology
Upgrades

Infrastructure

Network device
replacements

Security
implementations

- Replacement of location based fiber:
 - SSBA funded. (\$204,515)
- Network switches, servers, modules, etc:
 - Erate aid (1.200,000)
 - BOCES aid (\$300,000)
- Prep and HS student laptop replacement:
 - BOCES aid. (3.200,000)
- NFT laptop replacement:
 - BOCES aid. (\$700,000)
- Security camera upgrades:
 - SSBA funded (\$1.200,000)
- Raptor Visitor management system implementation:
 - SSBA funded (\$34,000)

Technology Upgrades: Future Planning

- **Wireless Access Point Replacements:**
 - Erate aid
 - BOCES aid
- **Smartboard Replacements:**
 - (\$3,600,000)
- **Covid student laptop losses/replacements:**
 - BOCES aid
 - Alternative Device Purchases
- **Access control replacements:**
 - SSBA funded
 - Desktop computer and printer replacements
 - Administration and CEC network improvements
 - Elementary laptop refresh
- **Additional security camera upgrades:**
 - SSBA funded

Qualifying Facilities Improvements

- The NFCSD proposes using ARP funds to improve District facilities as listed below:
- Installing water bottle filling stations in place of all current drinking fountains – estimated ARP cost: \$300,000.
- Construction of an outdoor playground at Niagara Street Elementary School – estimated ARP cost: \$300,000.
- Replacement of outdated fitness equipment at NFHS – Estimated ARP cost: \$147,000.
- Replacement of cafeteria furniture at schools not updated during the 20-21 school year – estimated ARP cost: \$270,000.
- Replacement of musical instruments across District schools – estimated ARP cost: \$250,000.
- Upgrade NFHS Mechanical Systems – estimated ARP cost: \$2,500,000.

Public Opportunity for Questions or Comments

- You may review a copy of this presentation on the District website and input questions by email to mlaurrie@nfschools.net