

Supporting Students' Social and Emotional Well-Being and Learning Outcomes with ESSER II and III Funds

Belmont Public Schools received Elementary and Secondary Education Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER II and III) through the federal American Rescue Plan Act. Working in partnership with the Town of Belmont that is also receiving federal funds, we have developed a plan to use these funds over two school years (2021-22 and 2022-23) to support students' social and emotional well-being and learning outcomes following the challenging year we all experienced in 2020-21. (See option 1 on slide 7 of the [August 10, 2021 presentation](#) to the School Committee.)

ESSER II	\$456,001
ESSER III	\$1,002,359
Total	\$1,458,360

Through our district work on social and emotional learning, we know that how students experience school has a direct impact on how well they can learn. If they feel safe, comfortable, and have a strong sense of belonging, they are better able to learn. In order to accomplish this, we have allocated the federal funds to add professional educators to our district, including:

- An additional nurse for the district to support the increased needs due to the ongoing pandemic requirements;
- Social workers/Adjustment counselors (two each at the middle school and high school) to work with students who need additional emotional support beyond what is provided by educators in the classroom;
- Math Specialists (two for the elementary schools) to work with students who additional support to fill gaps in learning and meet grade-level expectations;
- A transition room educator at Belmont High School for students who are returning back to the school setting from hospitalizations and need additional emotional and/or academic support to successfully resume their full class schedule;
- A full-time elementary assistant principal to work primarily in our largest elementary school (Wellington that has 5 classes of each grade) and who will also provide support to the students at Burbank and Winn Brook (4 classes of each grade);
- Building Substitutes who are assigned to each school to get to know the students and the school coverage so they are better able to provide support and substitute coverage as needed;
- A technology integration specialist to support educators' use of technology to enhance instruction; and

- Paraprofessionals to enhance the support of our students in the METCO program.

Additionally, ESSER funds paid for educators and materials for the summer academic recovery program for students K-12. For elementary and middle school students, the English Language Arts and Mathematics academic recovery classes were embedded in the Belmont Summer Enrichment Program and students were also able to participate in the enrichment classes, if they chose. For our high school students, academic recovery was offered in person and online using the Edgenuity learning platform for credit recovery. During the 2021-22 school year, we will continue to provide academic recovery support during the day and after school.

Finally, ESSER funds will continue to support professional development for educators that will increase their capacity to support students' social emotional well-being and learning outcomes. As we did last year, we have partnered with professionals from McLean Hospital for this work. We have also contracted with a consultant to work with the district as we improve school and district Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). As described on the Elementary and Secondary Education [website](#), "A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is a framework for how school districts can build the necessary systems to ensure that each and every student receives a high quality educational experience."

We are grateful for these federal funds that will allow us to best support all Belmont Public Schools students this year and next year.