



FACTS's Plan for  
using Federal COVID  
Relief Funding

# 1. What is ESSER?

ESSER stands for Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Funding.

It is money from the US government that goes to schools to help them meet school needs caused by the pandemic.

## FACTS is Getting 3 Rounds of Federal Funding

### **ESSER I \$360,000**

Mainly for providing emergency relief to address the impact COVID-19 has had on safety and barriers to providing educational services

### **ESSER II \$1.7 M**

Focused mainly on supporting the safe reopening of schools.

### **ARP ESSER \$3.4 M**

Encourages building long-term and sustainable systems of support to address students' academic, social and emotional needs and to increase equity in opportunities to learn.

ii.

How has COVID-19  
impacted FACTS's  
Finances?

How has the pandemic impacted FACTS's income?

- FACTS's income was reduced by \$168,492 in 2020-21 and by \$537,689 this year due to reductions in student enrollment
  - The vast majority of FACTS's income comes from the per pupil allocation from the government

How has the pandemic impacted FACTS's income?

- ❑ The reduction in FACTS's enrollment = reductions in Title funding, food reimbursement, and other government sources.
- ❑ Income was also lost by two years without a 5K and reductions in individual giving

## How has the pandemic impacted FACTS's expenses?

- There were reductions in some expenses from not being in the building such as utilities, copier costs, and sub services. But this is a small amount of money compared to our loss of income.
- There were other increases in expenses, many of which we are funding with ESSER

Will the pandemic have longer term impact on FACTS finances?

- ▣ It is expected that the pandemic will impact state and local revenues in future years. Since most of FACTS funding comes from state and local per pupil funding, we are bracing for potential cuts in upcoming years.
- ▣ There is much that is unknown about school funding



iii.

How is FACTS using  
ESSER funding?

# Building Changes

## How is FACTS using ESSER funding?

- ▣ Additional hand washing stations
- ▣ Touchless bottle fillers with filtered water
- ▣ Expansion of the Nursing Office
- ▣ Creation of an Isolation Room
- ▣ Installation of ceiling mounted air purifiers in three classrooms

# COVID-19 Prevention & Mitigation

## How is FACTS using ESSER funding?

- Hiring a second full time nurse to help with COVID issues (contact tracing, testing, etc.)
- Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment
- Replacing tables with individual student desks to increase distancing in classrooms
- Purchase of room air purifiers

## How is FACTS using ESSER funding?

- ❑ To pay for increased costs of individually packaged meals
- ❑ To procure convection ovens and warmers for serving hot, individually packaged meals
- ❑ Expanded the food service positions to full time for serving meals in 19 rooms, to assist with COVID safety lanyard checks, and to add interpretation and translation capacity for parent communication

## How is FACTS using ESSER funding?

- ▣ Reducing crowding during outdoor time has led to a major change to our school schedule
  - Expanded the School Culture Assistant positions to full time to allow for outdoor time every period of the day

# Continuity of Education through School Closures



## How is FACTS using ESSER funding?

- ❑ Purchase of Chromebooks for every FACTS student
- ❑ Ensuring that all FACTS students have adequate internet access
- ❑ Purchase of headsets/microphones, webcams, document cameras needed by students and/or teachers to more effectively teach remotely

## How is FACTS using ESSER funding?

- ▣ Staff Training: how to teach remotely; how to teach concurrently (teaching both in-person and remote at the same time)
- ▣ Purchase of online subscriptions such as Zoom, IXL, etc.
- ▣ Purchase of staff laptops to ensure the swift and secure transition from in-school to remote instruction

## How is FACTS using ESSER funding?

- ▣ Improving technology infrastructure and cyber security, increasing the speed of connectivity as well as security
- ▣ Increased third party tech support

What are other ways FACTS is spending ESSER funding?

■ Creating a new position of Instructional Data Coordinator

- To increase and improve FACTS's use of data to inform instructional decisions
- To support staff in learning new technical skills as we start using different online learning platforms and screeners
- To manage the large amounts of new data related to “learning loss” and the impact of our interventions

What are other ways FACTS is spending ESSER funding?

- Supporting the position Administrative Assistant
  - To support distribution and collection of technology and supplies
  - To assist in managing transportation issues

Extra Academic &  
Student Support

How does ESSER funding address extra academic + student support needs?

- Hired an Intervention Coordinator & three additional certified teachers to provide small group supports
- Replaced two Special Education teaching assistants with certified teachers
- Hired additional K-2 English Language Development staff

How does ESSER funding address extra academic + student support needs?

- Hired additional Building Substitutes to replace the use of substitute services and to provide additional academic support when they are not serving as substitutes



After School and  
Summer Programs

# Roadmap for our Successful Return to In-Person School

Assess students' academic, social and emotional needs when they return to school

1

Decide whether we need to change what is taught and when (meeting students where they are at)

3

Plan for after school and summer programs after we've had a chance to assess students' needs

5

Provide social and emotional supports to all students. Continue to provide arts, music, Qigong and mindfulness, and time to play.

2

Create extra time and staffing for supporting students in small learning groups

4

Provide additional supports in after school and summer programs

6

What are your ideas for after school and summer programs?

- What kinds of program would most benefit students?
  - Are there any “must haves” for impactful after school and summer program?
  - What kind of program would you be most interested in for your student?

# Long Term & Sustainable Systems of Support

- To address students' academic & emotional needs
- To increase equity in opportunities to learn

Focus on Early  
Literacy

## How is FACTS working to increase early literacy?

- ❑ Hiring a full time Literacy Coordinator
- ❑ Using a robust phonics program in Grades K-2
- ❑ Continued word study and grammar in Grades 3-5
- ❑ Read alouds at all grade levels to foster a love of reading and expose students to more complex ideas
- ❑ Small group instructional support for students who are struggling

# Increasing Math Achievement

How is FACTS working to increase Math achievement?

- ❑ Full time Math Coordinator
- ❑ Math, English Language Development, and Special Education teachers are teaching more sophisticated math vocabulary
- ❑ Teacher training in effective methods of teaching English Learners which are also impactful for all learners
- ❑ Small group instructional support for students who are struggling



Supporting student  
social & emotional  
well-being

How is FACTS supporting student social & emotional well-being?

- ❑ Morning Meeting: a time to build connections
- ❑ Practicing positive, safe and predictable routines
- ❑ Including brain breaks during class time
- ❑ For calming and for energizing
- ❑ Weekly Qigong (a breath and movement based mindfulness practice) for all students
- ❑ Teacher training on brain science and trauma
- ❑ Teaching students to use mindfulness practices

Other uses of federal  
COVID relief funding

ESSER funding can be used to retain staff positions

- Retaining positions despite a decrease in enrollment
  - Over 40 students have left FACTS during the pandemic, most due to families moving out of the City.
  - FACTS has lost revenue from a smaller enrollment 2021-22 because we seek to distance as much as possible.

# Social & Emotional Supports for Staff

What kinds of social & emotional supports would help staff?

- What kinds of programs or investments would help address social and emotional needs of staff?
  - Are there actions or practices that Admin could take to be more supportive of staffs' social and emotional needs?

Your Input