

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT - RSU 9

ARP/ESSER III

GRANT AWARD APPLICATION

September 28, 2021

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Overview and Introduction

In July 2021, the Maine Department of Education released its final revision of allocations to Maine School Administrative Units from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund under the ARP Act of 2021. Maine school districts were awarded \$411 million to safely reopen and maintain safe operations while meeting the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students resulting from COVID-19. **RSU 9** received \$5,414,338.31, which included a required \$1,082,868 of the cumulative Award to be set aside for Learning Recovery.

The RSU 9 Administration was asked to create projects to address lost instructional time, to identify and prioritize needs that were missing from educational programming and facilities last year as a result of COVID-19, and to continue and/or enhance existing projects that were funded by the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I and II).

This document summarizes the project titles, descriptions, and budgets detailing the use of ARP/ESSER III funds that will be submitted in RSU 9's grant award application to the Maine Department of Education.

Grant Award Breakdown and Distribution

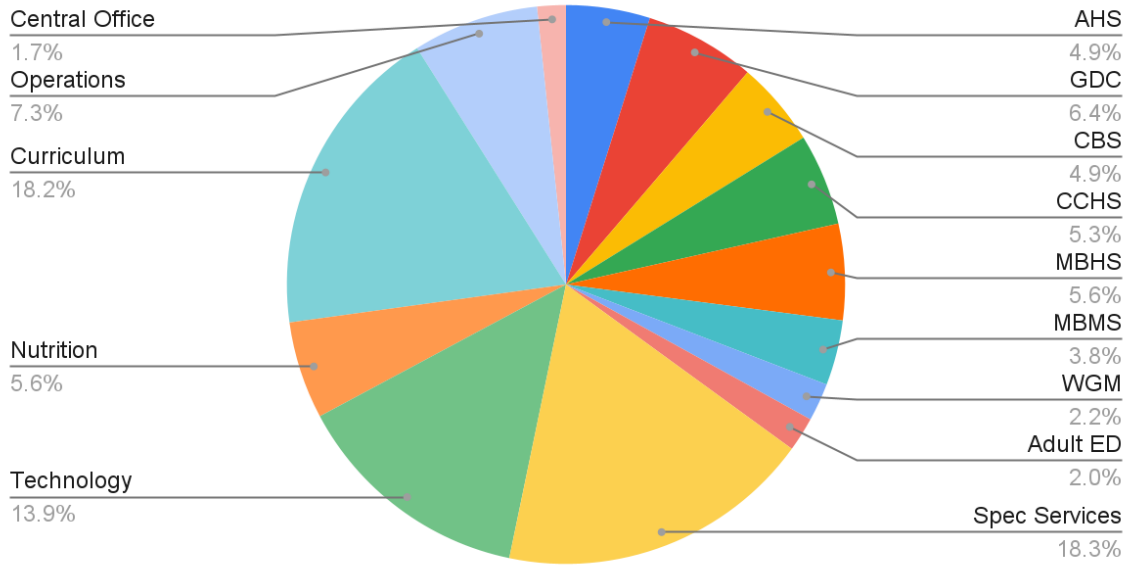
<i>Grant Award Breakdown</i>		
<i>School-Based Projects</i>		
	Academy Hill School	\$263,250
	HVAC	\$201,250
	Outdoor Learning Space	\$26,000
	Outdoor Intercom	\$20,000
	Picnic Tables	\$6,000
	Outside Cameras	\$10,000

	G.D. Cushing School	\$347,250
	HVAC	\$201,250
	Outdoor Learning Space	\$26,000
	Outdoor Intercom	\$20,000
	Playground Equipment	\$100,000
	Cascade Brook School	\$266,222
	HVAC	\$201,250
	Playground Fence	\$51,500
	Afterschool Programming	\$3,472
	Outside Cameras	\$10,000
	Cape Cod Hill School	\$287,250
	HVAC	\$201,250
	Outdoor Learning Space	\$26,000
	Playground Equipment	\$50,000
	Outside Cameras	\$10,000
	Mt. Blue High School	\$301,000
	Social Worker	\$80,000
	Reintegration Support	\$50,000
	Expanded/Extended Day	\$25,000
	.5 Secretary	\$20,000
	Duty Monitor	\$21,000
	Full-time Substitute	\$35,000
	.5 Assistant Principal	\$70,000
	Mt. Blue Middle School	\$204,050
	Outdoor Learning Space	\$111,000
	Adaptive Scheduler	\$1,550
	Outdoor Intercom	\$20,000
	Library Rehab	\$61,500
	Outside Cameras	\$10,000
	W.G. Mallett School	\$118,621
	Outdoor Learning Space	\$26,000

	Playground Equipment	\$50,000
	Signage for Walk and Wheel Path	\$1,500
	Interactive Outdoor Sound System	\$7,000
	Science Tools/Outdoor Learning	\$4,121
	Outdoor Intercom	\$20,000
	Outside Cameras	\$10,000
<i>Program-Based Projects</i>		
	Franklin County Adult Basic Education	\$107,500
	Mini Bus	\$60,000
	Advisor	\$30,000
	Evening Instructors	\$17,500
<i>Department-Based Projects</i>		
	Central Office	\$90,000
	ARP/ESSER III Grant Coordinator	\$90,000
	School Nutrition	\$305,500
	School Nutrition Assistant	\$70,000
	Kitchen Upgrade	\$222,000
	Carts	\$7,000
	Packaging Supplies	\$6,500
	Curriculum	\$986,195
	Dropout Prevention	\$5,000
	Summer Program Extension	\$50,000
	Science Kits	\$71,195
	Literacy Kits	\$170,000
	Remote Tutors	\$25,000
	Contact Tracing	\$85,000
	Remote Learning Coordinator	\$20,000
	Remote Academy	\$250,000
	Staff In-Service Days	\$310,000
	Operations	\$395,000
	Ride-on Sweeper	\$75,000

		Cordless Backpack/Batteries	\$30,000
		Building Automation System	\$20,000
		Leased Space - Central Office	\$270,000
		Special Services	\$988,500
		Tutorial Services	\$100,000
		Permanent Subs	\$143,500
		Speech Telepractice	\$20,000
		Psychological Services	\$100,000
		.5 Extended School Year Coordinator	\$10,000
		Additional Work Hours/Paraprofessionals	\$75,000
		Supplemental Afterschool/ESY	\$300,000
		Transportation	\$80,000
		Pre-School	\$30,000
		Home/School Liaison	\$130,000
		Technology	\$754,000
		District Network Upgrades	\$175,000
		Classroom Equipment Upgrades	\$50,000
		AV Equipment Upgrades - MBC	\$75,000
		Hotspot Service	\$50,000
		Student Laptop Lease Extension	\$404,000
		GRANT AWARD APPLICATION TOTAL	\$5,414,338.13
		GRANT AWARD TOTAL	\$5,414,338.31

Grant Award Distribution



School-Based Projects

Academy Hill School

Total Cost of All Projects - \$263,500

HVAC - Air Conditioning Upgrade

Project Cost - \$201,250

Project Description - Funds will be used for the repair and improvement of our school facility to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards by improving air quality.

Outdoor Learning Space

Project Cost - \$26,000

Project Description - In response to COVID-19 and in an effort to provide a safer learning environment with increased emphasis on outside learning, stakeholders propose the construction of an outside classroom that is accessible to all students.

Outdoor Intercom

Project Cost - \$20,000

Project Description - In response to COVID-19 and in an effort to provide a safer learning environment with an increased emphasis on time spent outside to include academic learning, social-emotional learning, and extra breaks.

Picnic Tables

Project Cost - \$6,000

Project Description - With the increased emphasis on outside learning and breaks.

Outside Cameras

Project Cost - \$10,000

Project Description - As a result of COVID-19, our school has increased outdoor learning and play while also limiting and screening public entrance. Outdoor cameras would allow us to monitor students outside as well as parents or community members who arrive at our school throughout the day. Cameras are needed to address safe school learning around the campus.

G.D. Cushing School

Total Cost of All Projects - \$347,250

HVAC - Air Conditioning Upgrade

Project Cost - \$201,250

Project Description - Funds will be used for the repair and improvement of our school facility to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards by improving air quality.

Outdoor Learning Space

Project Cost - \$26,000

Project Description - In response to COVID-19 and in an effort to provide a safer learning environment with increased emphasis on outside learning, stakeholders propose the construction of an outside classroom that is accessible to all students.

Outdoor Intercom

Project Cost - \$20,000

Project Description - In response to COVID-19 and in an effort to provide a safer learning environment with an increased emphasis on time spent outside to include academic learning, social-emotional learning, and extra breaks.

Playground Equipment Upgrade

Project Cost - \$100,000

Project Description - In response to COVID-19 and in an effort to provide a safer learning environment for our students, we have increased the time spent outside for breaks and health breaks. Our playground is very old with outdated equipment that includes some safety issues.

Cascade Brook School

Total Cost of All Projects - \$266,222

HVAC - Air Conditioning Upgrade

Project Cost - \$201,250

Project Description - Funds will be used for the repair and improvement of our school facility to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards by improving air quality.

Playground Fence

Project Cost - \$51,500

Project Description - Due to the increased emphasis on outside learning to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and educate students in a full school model, several classrooms are outside during the school day. Despite lessening the impacts of COVID-19, having students and teachers outside poses an increased security risk because our playground and school have no perimeter fence.

Afterschool Programming

Project Cost - \$3,472

Project Description - Due to the decreased instructional time the past year and a half due to COVID-19, several students have not had opportunities to effectively meet grade-level standards in math, reading, science, and social studies. We have a proposal to have Terrific Tuesdays. Terrific Tuesdays is a plan to have after-school programming four times a month with a different academic and social focus each week.

Outside Cameras

Project Cost - \$10,000

Project Description - As a result of COVID-19, our school has increased outdoor learning and play while also limiting and screening public entrance. An outdoor camera would allow us to monitor students outside as well as parents or community members who arrive at our school throughout the day. Cameras are needed to address safe school learning around the campus.

Cape Cod Hill School

Total Cost of All Projects - \$287,250

HVAC - Air Conditioning Upgrade

Project Cost - \$201,250

Project Description - Funds will be used for the repair and improvement of our school facility to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards by improving air quality.

Outdoor Learning Space

Project Cost - \$26,000

Project Description - In response to COVID-19 and in an effort to provide a safer learning environment with increased emphasis on outside learning, stakeholders propose the construction of an outside classroom that is accessible to all students.

Playground Equipment Upgrade

Project Cost - \$50,000

Project Description - In response to COVID-19 and in an effort to provide a safer learning environment for our students, we have increased the time spent outside for breaks and health breaks. Our playground is very old with outdated equipment that includes some safety issues.

Outside Cameras

Project Cost - \$10,000

Project Description - As a result of COVID-19, our school has increased outdoor learning and play while also limiting and screening public entrance. An outdoor camera would allow us to monitor students outside as well as parents or community members who arrive at our school throughout the day. Cameras are needed to address safe school learning around the campus.

Mt. Blue High School

Total Cost of All Projects - \$301,000

Social Worker

Project Cost - \$80,000 (year 3)

Project Description - A full-time social worker to address the social-emotional needs of students related to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will focus on needs related to tobacco, drug and alcohol use and abuse, and will provide support for social-emotional needs in general. The individual will work directly with students at any level as students have experienced the trauma of the pandemic.

Reintegration Support

Project Cost - \$50,000

Project Description - This person would be involved in academic intervention, parent/student outreach, collaboration with teachers and administration to identify and prevent student dropout, and truancy intervention, We anticipate continued challenges in transitioning back to school as an impact of the pandemic. Our goal would be to have this individual target students for academic recovery in a variety of ways and to do home visits and outreach to ensure attendance and engagement. Given the impact of COVID and the need for social distancing in some of our large Learning Labs, breakfast and lunch, we are required to spread students out in several different areas. The administrators currently cover breakfast and lunch duty for about two hours a day and are struggling with the size of Learning Labs in order to offer the support necessary related to academic success.

Expanded/Extended Day

Project Cost - \$25,000

Project Description - We are requesting the continuation of a full-time substitute to address increases in absenteeism related to health concerns. This substitute will be able to provide better replacement instruction when regular staff is out because they will be familiar with staff practices and procedures being in the building daily.

.5 Secretary - COVID

Project Cost - \$20,000

Project Description - Given the increase in parent, staff, and student communication upon our full return to school, we are requesting increased support in our front office. This individual would assist with the increase in sub calls and coverage, the impact on athletics, clubs, and academic communications given adjustments to all matters related to COVID-19, close contacts, remote learning, and tracking student attendance and locations specific to our current COVID-19 expectations.

Duty Monitor

Project Cost - \$21,000

Project Description - Given the impact of COVID and the need for social distancing in some of our large Learning Labs, breakfast and lunch, we are required to spread students out in several different areas. The administrators currently cover breakfast and lunch duty for about two hours a day and are struggling with the size of Learning Labs in order to offer the support necessary related to academic success. We anticipate that this individual could assist in all of these areas to best support student safety and academic success.

Full-time Substitute

Project Cost - \$35,000 (extended)

Project Description - RSU 9 has experienced a significant need for a qualified substitute who is available to work with students to enable teachers to provide more individualized instruction to those students who are demonstrating lagging skills due to instructional interruptions.

.5 Assistant Principal

Project Cost - \$70,000 (\$45,000 year 1 / \$25,000 year 2)

Project Description - For the last several years the second assistant principal position at Mt. Blue Campus has been shared 50/50 with the assistant director position at Foster Career and Technical Education Center (FTC). This is not the current reality. The addition of programming and grant writing at FTC has steadily increased the workload for the director and assistant director. In the 2022/23 school year, we will be asking to increase the assistant director at FTC to full-time, which will be fully funded through the subsidy allocation for CTE. We will need to fill the .5 assistant principal position this change will leave at Mt. Blue Campus. In lieu of the difficulty the district is facing filling student intervention support positions, we are requesting an additional .5 assistant principal position, which will increase the current position to full-time for the 2023-24 school year. A full-time assistant principal will be better able to focus their time on the social-emotional and intervention supports our students need most.

Mt. Blue Middle School

Total Cost of All Projects - \$204,050

Outdoor Learning Space

Project Cost - \$111,000

Project Description - In response to COVID-19 and in an effort to provide a safer learning environment with increased emphasis on outside learning, stakeholders propose the construction of an outside learning space that is accessible to all students.

Adaptive Scheduler Plug-In

Project Cost - \$1,550

Project Description - Software to allow teachers to "tag" students to see them during the learning lab time in order to get caught up on missing standards.

Outdoor Intercom

Project Cost - \$20,000

Project Description - Currently our exterior classrooms and recess locations have no access to the intercom system. This makes it a huge safety and security issue as well as a hindrance to social distancing. Students must come into the building to hear announcements.

Library Rehab

Project Cost - \$61,500

Project Description - Update the existing library space to include additional teaching spaces to enhance onsite learning, etc.

Outside Cameras

Project Cost - \$10,000

Project Description - As a result of COVID-19, our school has increased outdoor learning and play while also limiting and screening public entrance. An outdoor camera would allow us to monitor students outside as well as parents or community members who arrive at our school throughout the day. Cameras are needed to address safe school learning around the campus.

W.G. Mallett School
Total Cost of All Projects - \$118,621

Outdoor Learning Space

Project Cost - \$26,000

Project Description - In response to COVID-19 and in an effort to provide a safer learning environment with increased emphasis on outside learning, stakeholders propose the construction of an outside classroom that is accessible to all students.

Playground Equipment Accessible Play

Project Cost - \$50,000

Project Description - As a response to Covid 19, students are outside more and have increased mask breaks. Some alternative playground items that offer options to standard physical play would be

good alternatives. Those options such as fine motor or sound and music equipment can also be better utilized by our Life Skills program students who may have physical limitations preventing the use of standard playground equipment. Currently, our playground equipment is primarily for students with full physical mobility, yet our school houses a district Life Skills program in which there can be students who need alternatives.

Signage for Walk and Wheel Path

Project Cost - \$1,500

Project Description - Mallett School constructed a 'Walk and Wheel Path' to provide alternatives to students in wheelchairs. We additionally would like to install signage along the path that provides additional exercise options along the route. This will be important as our students spend increased time outside during Covid 19, and would again increase our alternatives for students with special ambulatory needs. We would have the signage constructed and completed by our district's Career and Tech Ed Center. Our staff, Life Skills programming staff, and the 'Fun For All' committee are key voices in this request.

Interactive Outdoor Sound System

Project Cost - \$7,000

Project Description - As a response to COVID-19, stakeholders have identified a need to expand learning into outdoor spaces. We currently do not have a functional sound system to be utilized outdoors, this would enable outdoor alternatives and outdoor communication. This enables more outdoor learning opportunities and the possibilities of guest speakers, presenters, performers, and outdoor larger group learning.

Science Tools for Outdoor Learning

Project Cost - \$4,121

Project Description - As a response to Covid 19 there is an increased effort toward outdoor learning. Some science curricula relate directly to plants and life cycles. Having appropriate tools to use in the school gardens/school grounds is key. WGM stakeholders would like to acquire safe outdoor equipment to use when engaging students in planting, observing and harvesting, measuring, and graphing. Students and staff will be surveyed and the work will be done with the support of a regional school garden coordinator, Laura Hoeft.

Outdoor Intercom

Project Cost - \$20,000

Project Description - As a response to Covid 19 there is an increased effort toward outdoor learning. Our outdoor classrooms and recess locations do not have access to the intercom system. This makes it a huge safety and security issue as well as a hindrance for social distancing. Students must come into the building to hear announcements.

Outside Cameras

Project Cost - \$10,000

Project Description - As a result of COVID-19, our school has increased outdoor learning and play while also limiting and screening public entrance. An outdoor camera would allow us to monitor students outside as well as parents or community members who arrive at our school throughout the day. Cameras are needed to address safe school learning around the campus.

Program-Based Project

Franklin County Adult Basic Education

Total Cost of All Projects - \$107,500

Mini Bus

Project Cost - \$60,000

Project Description - Purchase a passenger van to provide local and distant students with transportation to our programs. It would bring kids down from #58 and Rangeley area.

Advisor

Project Cost - \$30,000 (\$20,000 year 1 / \$10,000 year 2 - then consider in local budget)

Project Description - Increases our advisor to full-time. Young drop-out students need more advising and support than older students.

Evening Instructors

Project Cost - \$17,500

Project Description - Offering night-time instruction for students working during the day. Covers the cost of two instructors for 6 hours per week for the school year.

Department-Based Projects

Central Office

Total Cost of All Projects - \$90,000

ARP/ESSER III Grant Coordinator

Project Cost - \$90,000 (2022 - 2024)

Project Description - COVID-19 Grant Coordinator position to continue full-time for 2022-23 and half-time to reopen grant requests and adjust budget requests for 2023-24.

School Nutrition

Total Cost of All Projects - \$305,500

School Nutrition Assistant

Project Cost - \$70,000 (\$35,000 for two years)

Project Description - To continue a high level of service for students and families with ever-increasing meals served to more learners (in person, Hybrid & remote) during the school year, during intervention vacation week learning, and during summer intervention programming. To support increased health and safety expectations through oversight. To continue to offer a nutritious, high-quality nutrition program. A School Nutrition Assistant is needed to support staff and kitchens with a variety of office/clerical/cooking tasks.

Kitchen Upgrade

Project Cost - \$222,000

Project Description - Upgrade key pieces of equipment and aesthetics in the Academy Hill School kitchen to increase output and provide meals more efficiently. This kitchen also provides meals for Cushing School, After School meal program, and Summer Meals.

Carts

Project Cost - \$7,000

Project Description - For transport of meals /supplies within schools.

Packaging Supplies

Project Cost - \$6,500

Project Description - Assorted supplies for wrapping food items. For speed of service and safety, we are portioning many condiments for students

Curriculum

Total Cost of All Projects - \$986,195

Dropout Prevention

Project Cost - \$5,000 (Year 1 - could be 3 years)

Project Description - A district-wide team with materials and stipend to review data to ensure learning loss is addressed at the district and individual schools. Data will be reviewed with community members to ensure interventions are in place, reviewing data, and purchasing resources to join the National Dropout Prevention Center.

Summer Program Extension

Project Cost - \$50,000

Project Description - Extend our summer programming to the afternoon.

Science Kits - Grades K-5

Project Cost - \$71,195

Project Description - Materials and kits for teachers in K-5 to complete science without sharing of materials. These resources will be used to engage students, and create equity across our district.

Literacy Kits - Grades K-5

Project Cost - \$170,000

Project Description - These kits will contain leveled readers that will allow teachers to provide more targeted intervention to all students.

Remote Tutors

Project Cost - \$25,000

Project Description - Remote tutors for students in quarantine.

Contact Tracing

Project Cost - \$85,000

Project Description - Contacting tracing including supplies, and staffing.

Remote Learning Coordinator

Project Cost - \$20,000 (2 years - stipend)

Project Description - Coordinates remote learning for students in quarantine, arranges tutors, etc.

Remote Academy

Project Cost - \$250,000 (2022-2023)

Project Description - Coordinates remote learning for students in quarantine, arranges tutors, etc.

Staff In-Service Days

Project Cost - \$310,000 (\$200,000 - 2021-2022/\$110,000 - 2022-2023)

Project Description - Coordinates remote learning for students in quarantine, arranges tutors, etc.

Operations

Total Cost of All Projects - \$395,000

Ride-on Sweeper

Project Cost - \$75,000 (Mt. Blue Campus - move current Mt. Blue Campus sweeper to MBMS)

Project Description - A ride-on sweeper to clean a school building in an efficient manner freeing up services to complete building cleaning needs.

Cordless Backpack Vacuums and Extra Batteries

Project Cost - \$30,000

Project Description - High efficient equipment that will clean school buildings during COVID-19 in less time because of mobility and ease of use.

Building Automation System

Project Cost - \$20,000 (District)

Project Description - The current system is outdated and running on an archaic windows system. The new system will work with all HVAC and building security systems to assure safety for all staff and students during COVID-19.

Purchased/Leased Space - Central Office

Project Cost - \$270,000 (35-months / with utilities and furniture)

Project Description - To free up space for doubled-up special education classrooms and to keep students physically distanced. Classrooms will move into spaces occupied by Central Office staff and Central Office staff will move offsite to a purchased/leased space through 2024.

Special Services

Total Cost of All Projects - \$988,500

Tutorial Services

Project Cost - \$100,000

Project Description - High-quality tutorial services to support learning recovery by offering alternative access to education. Students who refuse to attend school or don't participate in traditional school contexts can access online or in-person instruction while in the school building or another location.

Permanent Subs

Project Cost - \$143,500

Project Description - RSU9 has experienced a significant shortage of qualified substitutes who are available to work with students to enable teachers to provide more individualized instruction to those students who are demonstrating lagging skills due to instructional interruptions.

Speech Telepractice

Project Cost - \$20,000

Project Description - RSU 9 has been providing speech/language services remotely for 5 years. This mode of instruction allows students to have access to licensed speech/language pathologists (SLPs) in order to make progress in areas of language and speech that impact their abilities to make progress in their educational programs, without interruption moving forward.

Psychological Services

Project Cost - \$100,000

Project Description - Psychological evaluations are necessary to identify a student's levels of functioning and inform the development of an educational plan. This project funds psychological/academic evaluations for students who have struggled during the pandemic and have been unavailable for evaluation sessions.

.5 Extended School Year Coordinator

Project Cost - \$10,000

Project Description - Students who require additional instruction in order to maintain skills over the summer attend extended school year programming. In order to meet the unique needs of students continuing to recover skills lost due to the pandemic, a coordinator for the program is needed.

Additional Work Hours for Paraprofessionals

Project Cost - \$75,000

Project Description - Paraprofessionals (ed techs) work their entire shift directly with students. In order to provide effective instruction to address learning loss and recovery, 2 hrs/month of work time is needed for ed techs to coordinate with lead teachers on instructional strategies and student needs.

Supplemental Afterschool/Extended School Year Programming

Project Cost - \$300,000

Project Description - This project enables students to continue to address and progress towards meeting academic and functional goals where progress has been delayed or services interrupted due to circumstances in the pandemic.

Transportation

Project Cost - \$80,000 (Vehicle and driver)

Project Description - Van and a driver are needed to get students to educational placements when not in the district, in-person tutoring if needed, and for students exploring post-secondary employment activities.

Pre-School

Project Cost - \$30,000

Project Description - In preparation for taking on preschool students, who have also experienced learning losses due to Covid, the transition from Pre-K to K can be addressed during summer programming. To support additional students from the typical student numbers the district would require staff, space, technology, transportation, and food.

Home/School Liaison

Project Cost - \$130,000 (1.5 years)

Project Description - Position to facilitate family efforts to overcome barriers to full participation in educational programming.

Technology

Total Cost of All Projects - \$754,000

District Network Upgrades

Project Cost - \$175,000

Project Description - This project would make enhancements to our digital infrastructure that would allow us to continue to offer anytime and anywhere teaching and learning while expanding our ability to serve the needs of our learning communities. This project would include hardware (firewalls, switches, wireless access points, etc.) and software (service licensing).

Classroom Equipment Upgrades

Project Cost - \$50,000

Project Description - This project would continue the work begun with CRF funds to achieve consistency in audiovisual equipment for teaching and learning in instructional spaces around the district. For example, some classrooms do not have speakers/audio enhancements, others have no AppleTV (or a very old AppleTV).

AV Equipment Upgrades - Mt. Blue Campus

Project Cost - \$75,000

Project Description - This project would continue the work begun with CRF funds to achieve consistency in audiovisual equipment for teaching and learning in instructional spaces around the district. For example, some classrooms do not have speakers/audio enhancements, others have no AppleTV (or a very old AppleTV).

Hotspot Service

Project Cost - \$50,000 (2021-2024)

Project Description - This project would continue the service previously provided by the Maine Department of Education for cellular-based hotspots that facilitate remote teaching and learning. This project would further expand on that to potentially include other options.

Student Laptop Lease Extension

Project Cost - \$404,000 (\$250,000 year 1 / \$150,000 year 2 / remainder from district budget)

Project Description - This project would allow us to pay off most of our outstanding balance on student laptops. The first year of the lease was funded with ESSER II.