

FFCHS ARP ESSER Award Plan

Background: The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP 2021) was signed into law in March 2021 and provides additional funding for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER Fund). Fast Forward Charter High School (FFCHS) applied for and was awarded \$343,659.16 to support the plan summarized below.

Summary: The students at Fast Forward Charter High School (FFCHS) have been impacted by COVID-19 in following ways: less in-person contact throughout the 2021 school year (SY), lapses in participation in the school-wide literacy program, lack of/limited instruction in the math due to pandemic circumstances, added pressures/stresses contributing to poor social-emotional/mental health conditions, and socio-economic damages to families of students. Our team at FFCHS is concerned about students dropping out or struggling to meet graduation requirement due to circumstances beyond their control or caused by the pandemic.

Social/Emotional Needs: Students at FFCHS have long struggled with mental health prior to the pandemic, but the needs of our students have only increased. Currently, our Social Worker is actively meeting with 46 students. FFCHS's students are not only in critical need of mental health services, but a space to process and work through their social-emotional needs. FFCHS is currently working to establish an outdoor learning space where students can go and participate in mindfulness exercises. In summation, the stakeholders of FFCHS know that post-pandemic education will continue to look vastly different than our educational past, and we are ready to step up to the challenge and create learning environments that help our students grow up and contribute to society.

Graduation Rate: FFCHS's graduation rates have been consistent over the last several years (18SY: 76.5%, 19SY: 78.4%, 20SY: 76.6%). For the 2021 school year, FFCHS had its largest graduating class at 101 students. In the 2021 school year, FFCHS brought in many students from the surrounding schools/districts to help students recover credit lost due to pandemic circumstances.

Summer/School Year Credit Recovery: FFCHS implemented a summer credit recovery course in the summer of 2020 to help 2021 seniors make up credit from the last portion of the 2020 school year. The program was successful in recovering students a total of 15 credits distributed among 8 students. The same Summer Credit Recovery program was held in the summer of 2021 with 52 students participating and recovering a total of 67.75 credits. Our LEA plans to continue holding the Summer Credit Recovery program for the foreseeable future.

School-wide Literacy: Much like our concern for increasing our graduation rate, our LEA is equally concerned with losing the progress made by school-wide literacy program. In the 2020 school year, freshmen started the school year with an average Lexile score of 1013 (usually considered an 8th grade reading level). A year later, at the start of the 2021 school year, the new freshmen class averaged a score of 885 (usually considered a 6th grade reading level). FFCHS's



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goal is for students to reach a Lexile score of 1050 or a 9th grade equivalent. Students at FFCHS are required to participate in a school-wide literacy program that occurs during the students' second period. Students read an article, respond to questions, hold a class discussion, and submit data points to the Literacy Specialist. All data is shared with teachers who utilize the information to inform their teaching and lesson planning. FFCHS has purchased the HMH Reading Inventory to have a more up-to-date Lexile tool. Math is an equal priority for our LEA. Pre-pandemic, our LEA was looking for ways to effectively track and collect data points on our students' math ability. For the current school year, FFCHS has purchased the HMH Math Inventory to begin providing interventions to students in need.

Indoor Air Quality: FFCHS has had the same air units since the school inception in the 2004 school year. Several units have been severely damaged and/or functional at non-optimal levels. FFCHS plans to replace all necessary units with the remaining funds of the ARP ESSER award.

Budget:

Salary Benefits	\$68,732.16
- Literacy Specialist	
- Educational Technology	
Property Including Equipment	\$274,927
- Indoor Air Quality	

ARP ESSER Grant Team:

Jill Lowe	Principal/Director
Ryan Marchant	Business Manager/Director
Alex Garrett	Assistant Principal
Kathy Anderson	Special Education Director
Karen Christiansen	School Counselor
Thomas Kramer	Social Worker
Dr. Richard West	Board President
Lynn Hobbs	Board Member

For More Information Contact:

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