

INVESTING IN STUDENT SUCCESS

ESSER 3.0 Plan Updates

SPRING 2022

Congress approved **nearly \$200 billion** through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). After meeting with stakeholders and completing a detailed needs assessment, KCS identified the following priorities for the district's share of ESSER 3.0, which totaled **nearly \$114 million**.



STRATEGY SPOTLIGHT

We love seeing how one of our teachers is using the knowledge gained through the UTK Literacy Cohort this spring. She is implementing new research-based strategies with her students and as a teacher leader is sharing those new strategies with her colleagues.

- Tracy Marsh
Beaumont Magnet Academy

Priority 1 / Foundational Academic Skills

COVID-19 caused a significant decline in academic achievement, and KCS is focused on strengthening instruction to ensure equitable access and prioritize resources for the most affected schools.

Key accomplishments:

- Had 17 schools participate in the first cohort of the UTK literacy specialist program
- Provided literacy tutoring at elementary schools
- Established tutor training
- Launched a top-rated math curriculum
- Developed plan for math teacher pipeline

Next steps:

- Expand participation in UTK literacy specialist program
- Launch marketing plan to recruit tutors
- Develop strategies to identify and develop math teachers

Priority 2 / Effective Educators

Due to teacher attrition and an increase in the percentage of first-year principals, the district is focused on equipping teachers and school leaders to make instructional decisions, and on creating a plan for recruitment and retention of high-quality educators.

Key accomplishments:

- Engaged in NIET support and Cognitive Coaching training
- Designed a new administrator mentoring program
- Completed a Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance (TECA) needs assessment
- Established a Grow Your Own program for students at flagship schools

Next steps:

- Identify mentors for new administrators
- Develop action plan for TECA recommendations
- Identify participants for Grow Your Own and Relay School of Education



Priority 3 / Post-High School Readiness

The pandemic disrupted access to important programs that prepare students for success beyond graduation, including advanced academics, lab-intensive CTE courses and work-based learning. The district is committed to providing the support that students need to develop a relevant postsecondary plan.

Key accomplishments:

- Received designation as a Ford Next Generation Learning community
- Launches career exploration at six elementary and six middle schools
- Begin hiring more than 30 college and career counselors
- Recovered more than 440 credits during January Blitz

Next steps:

- Hire Academy coaches
- Begin Freshman Seminar training
- Begin Academy Coach training



Priority 4 / Overcoming Obstacles To Learning

The district has seen a rise in mental health needs among students who are dealing with the impacts of anxiety, disrupted routines and social isolation. The district is focused on creating safe and healthy learning environments, using interventions to close academic gaps and investing in technology improvements and sustainable facilities.



Key accomplishments:

- Implemented a Whole Child Support Team pilot at two schools
- Began expansion of student intervention materials
- Completed RFP for interactive panels
- Developed a plan for cybersecurity risk assessment and additional student device needs
- Developed instructional walk-through tool to support student interventions

Next steps:

- Develop year-long training for whole-child support teams
- Secure contract approval for interactive panels
- Prepare for next round of student / staff device purchases
- Develop owner / architect agreement for Newcomer Center
- Train staff on expanded research-based student interventions

KCS RECOGNIZED AS A “BEST FOR ALL” DISTRICT!



Knox County Schools was recognized by the Tennessee Department of Education as one of 68 “Best For All” districts, which designated historic amounts of federal COVID-19 funding directly to student achievement and improvement of academic outcomes.