

American Rescue Plan Act Overview

City School District of the City of Niagara Falls

Mark R. Laurie, Superintendent

June 24, 2021

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

The Niagara Falls City School District pledges to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff by:

Adhering to all New York State Department of Health and CDC safety recommendations including:

Physical distancing

Appropriate mask wearing

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities

Proper ventilation

Use of Isolation Rooms

Contact tracing with isolation and quarantining

Providing access to diagnostic and screening testing

Coordinating vaccination pods

Continuous communication and posting on the District website

The Superintendent of Schools will be the person responsible for coordination and leadership on all issues related to the safe return and continuity of services. He will work in conjunction with the Board of Education, Niagara County Health Department, School Medical Director and District established COVID-19 Stakeholder Response Team.

American Rescue
Plan &
Foundation Aid
Funding

Niagara Falls City
School District
American Rescue
Plan (ARP Act)
2021 2022 School
Year

Plan Requirements:

All public school districts, Local Educational Agency, (LEA) participating in the American Recovery Rescue Plan (ARP) are required to establish a plan for the usage of the ARP funds that complies with the program's guidelines. These guidelines further state that the ARP plan created by the District should allow for the continuation of the programs or program related items beyond the availability of these federal funds.

Prior to the District's ARP plan becoming final, it will be posted publicly to allow for public comments. The District encourages all of its stakeholders to comment on the plan via the email address established for this purpose. Public comments on this plan will be considered as the District finalizes this plan.

District
Allocation

ARP Grant Funding	Amounts

Instructional Programming

Each LEA must use a minimum of 20% of its allocation to address learning loss related to the COVID public health crisis

Interventions must be evidenced-based and target those students most impacted by the crisis, such as:

Students with Disabilities

English Language Learners

Low-income students

Instructional
Programming:
All evidence-
based
interventions
must address

Instructional Programming: Elementary Enrichment and Interventions

Literacy: The District proposes selecting and training eight (8) additional teachers in Reading Recovery to provide Tier 3 services to the lowest performing 1st grade pupils in all elementary schools. Estimated ARP cost: \$720,000 annually, or 2,160,000 over three years.

Literacy: The District proposes purchasing supplemental reading materials to support delivery of differentiated reading instruction in grades Kindergarten, 1 and 2. Estimated nonrenewable cost: \$125,000.

STEM: The District proposes selecting an additional teacher to provide enriched, projectbased instruction to pupils in grades Kindergarten, 1 and 2 at the Primary Sister Schools. Estimated ARPA cost: \$90,000 per year or \$270,000 over 3 years.

Instructional Programming: Prep and High School

Cross-Disciplinary Pedagogy Coaching: Prep Schools

The District proposes selecting and training two Instructional Strategies coaches, one per school, to support instructors in planning and delivering classroom activities which focus, engage, and challenge all pupils. Approximate ARP cost: \$180,000 per year, or \$540,000 over 3 years.

Summer Credit Recovery

The District proposes funding credit recovery services for students in need, grades 9-12, to include electives and all Regents courses. Programming will require hiring District teachers, teaching assistants, technology integrators and pupil support staff such as coordinators and counselors and/or social workers. Estimated ARPA cost: \$200,000 per year or \$600,000 over three years.

Instructional Programming: Culturally Responsive- Sustaining Education and Social-Emotional Supports

School Climate and SEL Support - renewable expenses

The District proposes hiring five (5) additional social workers to provide Tier 3 supports to at-risk students and families. Estimated ARP cost: \$450,000 per year or \$1,350,000 over 3 years.

School Climate and SEL Support - nonrenewable expenses

The District proposes partnering with the National Federation of Just Communities to provide staff development aimed at creating a welcoming environment for all pupils and families. Estimated ARP cost: \$40,000

2021– 2022

District
Technology
Upgrades

Infrastructure

Network device
replacements

Security
implementations

Replacement of location based fiber:
SSBA funded. (\$204,515)

Network switches, servers, modules,etc:
Erate aid (1.200,000)
BOCES aid (\$300,000)

Prep and HS student laptop replacement:
BOCES aid. (3.200,000)

NFT laptop replacement:
BOCES aid. (\$700,000)

Security camera upgrades:
SSBA funded (\$1.200,000)

Raptor Visitor management system implementation:
SSBA funded (\$34,000)

Qualifying Facilities Improvements

The NFCSD proposes using ARP funds to improve District facilities as listed below:

Installing water bottle filling stations in place of all current drinking fountains – estimated ARP cost: \$300,000.

Construction of an outdoor playground at Niagara Street Elementary School– estimated ARP cost: \$300,000.

Replacement of outdated fitness equipment at NFHS
Estimated ARP cost: \$147,000.

Replacement of cafeteria furniture at schools not updated during the 20-21 school year– estimated ARP cost: \$270,000.

Replacement of musical instruments across District schools
estimated ARP cost: \$250,000.

Upgrade NFHS Mechanical Systems
estimated ARP cost: \$2,500,000.

Public
Opportunity
for Questions
or Comments

You may review a copy of this presentation on the District website and input questions by email to mlaurrie@nfschools.net