

To the Greenfield CUSD #10 Parents and Guardians:

There were questions regarding grants for the Greenfield School District at the January 24, 2022, Board of Education meeting. The district has been applying and receiving both state and federal grants since the mid-1960's. Each and every time a school district in Illinois submits a grant, that school district must attest that it will follow all the laws of the State of Illinois. There were questions as to whether the board members were aware the ESSER III grant locked the district into a mask mandate until 2024. That is simply not the case. The district did have to check all of the mitigation efforts that would be in effect and in October a mask mandate was in place and continues to be in place.

If anyone hears that the Greenfield School District signed up for the ESSER III grant and agreed to follow a mandatory mask mandate until September 2024 please explain to them that is not the case. The Greenfield School District was set to operate with a mask optional policy until the Governor's Executive Order and Illinois schools were required to wear masks and follow ISBE guidance. It is my hope this mandatory mask policy will change to an optional policy before September 2024. Let me be clear, the ESSER III grant's purpose is not at all focused on masks. The focus is to provide dollars for mitigation, improved programs, staffing needs, etc...

The September 2024 date is how long the Greenfield School District has to obligate the ESSER III grant funds. The September 2024 date is the period of availability for the grant. This date has been clear from the start and its purpose is certainly not in question.

Greenfield School District has always agreed to the terms and conditions of all grants in order to receive them. Each grant in no way locks the district into a mask policy for the future unless the policy is the law of the land. The District must follow ISBE guidelines at all times and hopefully that will change in the future. The District did have to create a Reopening Plan which includes all mitigation strategies in place that follows ISBE guidelines. The plan also had to share what would be purchased through the ESSER III grant. This has been done and has been on the district website since April 2021.

Here are all the great things that have been purchased with grant dollars for our students and school:

ESSER I (\$74,391) This grant helped us make it through mandatory remote learning during the 2019-2020 school year and includes: 120 chromebooks, 12 business department computers, medical supplies and personal protective equipment for staff and students, battery operated sprayers for cleaning classrooms and buses, cleaning and disinfecting supplies, desks for improved spacing, 4 bottle filling stations, and 2 more electrostatic sprayers for cleaning.

ESSER II (\$410,913) This grant is currently helping our district with in-person learning and did so as well last school year and includes: covering teacher salaries, chromebook management licenses, 358 more chromebooks, 438 chromebook cases, 200 wireless mice for chromebooks, 20 wireless access points, 6 chromebook charging carts for the elementary, 1 school server housed at the elementary, 7 Promethean boards at the elementary, 4 Promethean boards at the high school and HVAC upgrades for both schools.

ESSER III (\$945,450) This grant is currently helping our district and funds can be utilized until September 2024. The district's updated Reopening Plan is located on the district website at www.greenfieldschools.org for a detailed look at this grant funding. At no time did the district agree to keep masks mandated until 2024. That is simply not true!

The district will use ARP-ESSER to identify, re-engage, and support students most likely to have experienced the impact of lost instructional time on student learning by adding technology to improve teaching and learning in the classroom by updating Promethean Boards, graphing calculators, and by adding 80 chromebooks to continue the 1:1 computing for Greenfield CUSD #10. The district will implement prevention and mitigation strategies to the extent practicable, in line with the most recent CDC guidance, in order to continuously and safely operate schools for in-person learning by maintaining extra staff to keep class sizes consistently lower and to maintain in-person learning. The district will use ARP-ESSER funds to allocate funding to schools and for districtwide activities based on student need and help all families affected by the Covid-19 pandemic by waiving all registration fees for all families. The district will support staff affected by the Covid-19 pandemic by offering a Covid-stipend of \$500 for all district personnel for the 2021-2022 school year for their extra efforts in cleaning, teaching, and covering for other staff to make the in-person school year possible. The district will use ARP-ESSER to identify, re-engage, and support students most likely to have experienced the impact of lost instructional time on student learning. The district will use ARP ESSER funds to allocate funding to schools and for districtwide after school tutoring for Greenfield Elementary School and Greenfield High School. The district will use ARP-ESSER funds to allocate funding to schools to improve communication with families and district resources by upgrading the antiquated district phone system. This will improve communication with district stakeholders and provide important safety upgrades.

Let me be clear, these grants in total are worth \$1,430,754 and have been awesome for our school! Thanks to these dollars, our school is 1:1 with computers and has been able to stay open for in-person learning for the last two school years! This summer, our cafeteria will have air-conditioning as well as both school gyms! Thanks for supporting Greenfield CUSD #10

Go Tigers!

Dr. Kevin Bowman