



CENTRAL SERVICES

Jill Geiser, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent

(978) 528-7920 jgeiser@billericak12.com

To: Billerica School Committee

From: Jill Geiser

Date: September 28, 2021

Re: FY22 Grants – Title I, Title IIA, Title IVA, ESSER II, ESSER III

An important funding source for our educational programming is state-sponsored grants. Every year, the Billerica Public Schools qualifies for Title I, Title IIA, and Title IVA grants, which help us to provide targeted assistance for at-risk students, a well-rounded education for all students, professional development for teachers, and supports for family and community engagement. In addition, Billerica Public Schools received allocations for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief grants, ESSER II and ESSER III, which are designed to provide support to schools as they work to reopen schools safely and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, educators and families.

Included in this memo is a request of the School Committee to approve the hiring of a 0.6 Special Education Coordinator. (Please see ESSER III below.)

FY22 Title I (Allocation: \$233,131)

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides financial assistance to districts and schools with high percentages of children from low income families, to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. Federal funds are currently allocated through statutory formulas that are based primarily on census poverty estimates and the cost of education in each state. This year our district allocation is \$233,131, which is a \$15,388 decrease from last year's allocation of \$248,519.

For 2021-2022, the schools that are eligible for Title I funding are Ditson, Hajjar, and Parker elementary schools as well as Marshall Middle School. These are Targeted Assistance (TA) Title I schools because their low-income population is above average for all schools in the district. All students in the Title I schools, no matter their socio-economic background, may be eligible for Title I services. The district provides targeted assistance to students who are struggling academically in the Title I schools based upon a rank ordering system that takes into account in-class achievement, standardized assessment scores and teacher recommendations.

One of the most important distinctions in the use of Title I funds is that the funds can only be used to supplement programs, not take the place of already existing locally funded programs. In targeted assistance schools, a school district may use Title I funds only to supplement the level of funds that would, in the absence of Title I funds, be made available from non-Federal sources for

the education of students participating in Title I programs. Title I funds may not be used to supplant (i.e., take the place of) funds from non-Federal sources.

FY22 Title I Funded Activities

Literacy and Math Interventionists Title I TA Schools: We continue to use Title I funds to employ Interventionists at each of the Title I targeted assistance schools (Ditson, Hajjar, Parker, and Marshall). Interventionists provide targeted instruction to students who are identified through a rank-order process, using iReady and classroom assessment data. Interventions supported through Title I focus on math instruction at the elementary level and math and reading at middle school. This year, funds support 2 interventionist positions at each Title I school.

FY22 Title I Appropriations

Title I - FY22	Appropriation	\$233,131
Instructional Staff	2 Title 1 Interventionists, Parker	\$54,780.00
	2 Title 1 Interventionists, Hajjar	\$54,780.00
	2 Title 1 Interventionists Ditson	\$54,780.00
	2 Title I Interventionists Marshall	\$54,780.00
	Homeless Services	\$1,000.00
Travel	CACE Conference	\$3,011.00
Other	Title 1 Administration	\$10,000.00

FY22 Title IIA (Allocation: \$88,994)

The purpose of the Title IIA grant is to increase student achievement through comprehensive district initiatives that focus on the preparation, training, recruitment, and retention of highly qualified educators. This year our Title IIA allocation is \$88,994, which is an \$8,174 decrease from last year’s allocation of \$97,168.

FY22 Title IIA Funded Activities

Billerica Mentoring and Induction Program. With Title IIA funds, we continue to support the Billerica Public Schools Mentoring and Induction Program, which matches experienced mentor teachers with new teachers to the district. This program is key in providing support to our newest teachers with the aim to increase teacher retention and effectiveness.

Billerica Education Institute and School Year Courses. Title IIA also funds the Billerica Educator Institute, a summer professional learning program, and our in-service courses, which take place during the school year. For both of these programs, teachers teach a range of courses to their colleagues, most of which provided professional development points that teachers can use toward re-certification. Teachers may also earn in-service credits through some of the courses.

Professional Development: Title I funds support the ongoing balanced literacy training for teachers. Consultants from the Teaching Learning Alliance (TLA) provide professional development and coaching to elementary and middle school teachers to strengthen implementation of balanced literacy. This year the focus is on writers’ workshop, differentiation and small group instruction. The consultants work directly with teachers as well as content coaches in the district to strengthen literacy instruction in the classroom.

FY22 Title IIA Appropriations

Title IIA - FY22	APPROPRIATION	\$88,994
Stipends	Mentors for the Billerica Induction Program	\$40,000
	Billerica Educators Institute & School Year Courses	\$12,000
Contractual Services	Elementary / Middle School Literacy PD	\$36,226
Equitable Services	PD for Nashoba Learning Group	\$768

FY22 Title IVA (Allocation: \$16,904)

The purpose of the Title IVA Grant program is to provide student support and academic enrichment aimed to support a well-rounded education, improved conditions for student learning, and technology. This year our Title IIA allocation is \$16,904, which is a \$14,329 decrease from last year’s allocation of \$31,233.

FY22 Title IVA Funded Activities

Middle School After / Summer School Programming. Title IVA funds are dedicated to after and summer school programs at the middle schools. These programs support students’ social emotional learning and engagement in the school environment. With a range of activities that embody access to technology, academic intervention and enrichment, and wellness programming, students are offered different avenues to pursue their interests and strengths.

FY22 Title IVA Appropriations

Title IVA - FY22	Appropriation	\$16,904
Stipends	MS After School / Summer School Programming	\$16,759
Equitable Services	PD for Nashoba Learning Group	\$145

FY22 ESSER II (Allocation: \$796,407)

The purpose of the ESSER II grant is to provide support to schools as they work to reopen schools safely and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, educators and families. Our ESSER II allocation is \$796,407.

FY22 ESSER II Funded Activities

Summer and After School Programming. ESSER II funds support programming that occurs during the summer and after school during the school year. This programming includes intervention and academic support, tutoring, counseling services, and work by nurses related to preparing for a safe school opening. Funds pay for stipends for staff to provide additional instructional time and counseling support for students as well as for transportation services for these programs.

Professional Development. ESSER II funds support professional development for staff in the areas of equity and diversity, student engagement, and core content pedagogy. Outside PD providers, with expertise in specific areas of educational practice, facilitate workshops to increase instructional capacity among staff.

Mental Health Services. In addition to the summer counseling services, ESSER II supports outside mental health services. This is through contractual services with the aim to connect students to outside counseling resources.

Technology. ESSER II funds support updates to our technology infrastructure. Namely, there are WIFI upgrades in elementary schools so that students and staff could have greater WIFI access, which supports the use of our instructional technology and learning tools.

FY22 ESSER II Appropriations

ESSER II - FY22	Appropriation	\$796,407
Stipends	Summer Intervention Programming	\$100,000.00
	After School Tutoring	\$150,000.00
	Counselors/Social Workers	\$10,407.00
	Nurses Summer Work	\$6,000.00
Contractual Services	Professional Development	\$120,000.00
	Outside Mental Health Services	\$10,000.00
Supplies & Materials	Technology	\$350,000.00
Other	Student Transportation (Summer and After School Programs)	\$50,000.00

FY22 ESSER III (Allocation: \$1,835,522)

Similar to ESSER II, the purpose of ESSER III grant is to provide support to schools as they work to reopen schools safely and address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, educators and families. Our ESSER II allocation is \$1,835,522.

FY22 ESSER III Funded Activities

Academic Interventionists: ESSER III funds employ academic Interventionists at each school, which allows for support during the school day for our students who are struggling academically. Interventionists provide targeted instruction to students who are performing below grade level. Students are identified for interventions through a rank-order process, similar to what is used in our Title I schools.

Counseling / SEL Interventionists. ESSER III funds also employ Counseling/SEL interventionists at each school, which allows for direct support to students during the school day who are experiencing social emotional challenges that impede their ability to engage in their classes. Students who have counseling needs as identified by counselors, who are in the RTI process for social emotional needs, and/or who are in crisis are supported by these interventionists.

Curriculum and Professional Development. ESSER III funds support curriculum and professional development for staff in the areas of equity and diversity, student engagement, and core content pedagogy. Outside PD providers, with expertise in specific areas of educational practice, facilitate workshops to increase instructional capacity among staff. Funds also are used for stipends for teachers in all departments for time outside the contractual day to develop curriculum.

Summer and After School Counseling. ESSER III funds support counseling services that occur during the summer and after school during the school year. Funds pay for stipends for staff to provide additional counseling support for students beyond the school day and year.

Facilities Upgrades. ESSER III funds provide facility systems upgrades and improvements. Upgrades include enhancement of air filtration in order to minimize risk of COVID transmission.

Summer and After School Program Transportation. ESSER III funds support transportation for students participating in summer and after school programs.

Special Education Services and Programming. ESSER III funds support enhanced programming and services for students on IEP's. This includes programmatic support for in-district programs as well as services for out-of-district placements.

Instructional Technology. ESSER III funds provide instructional technology software and hardware, which enhances the learning experience of students. This technology helps teachers develop and deliver high-quality lessons, including strategies to provide targeted instruction to address learning gaps.

Family and Community Outreach. ESSER II funds support the district’s efforts to increase family engagement in schools. Specifically, funds support the Family and Community Outreach Specialist position to help coordinate family engagement efforts with the overall aim of strengthening family and community relations.

FY22 ESSER III Appropriations

ESSER III - FY22	Appropriation	\$1,835,522
Professional Salaries	Academic Interventionists (All Schools)	\$438,240.00
	Counseling / Social Emotional Interventionists (All Schools)	\$273,900.00
	Special Education Programmatic Support	\$60,000.00
Support Staff Salary	Community Outreach Specialist and Family Liaison	\$30,000.00
Stipends	Curricular and Instructional Planning and Professional Development	\$68,382.00
	Counseling / Social Emotional After School & Summer Services	\$50,000.00
Contractual Services	Professional and Curriculum Development	\$75,000.00
	Upgrades to HVAC systems to provide greater ventilation	\$250,000.00
Supplies & Materials	Instructional Technology Software and Hardware	\$220,000.00
	Curricular Materials	\$100,000.00
Other	Student Transportation (Summer and After School Programs)	\$150,000.00
	Special Education Services	\$120,000.00

0.6 Special Education Coordinator

The ESSER III grant includes funds to provide special education programmatic support (\$60,000). This support is focused on our substantially separate programs to ensure the programming meets the needs of our students. Specifically, the district proposes to hire a 0.6 Special Education Coordinator, who will oversee the IEP process that supports the transition into and out of programs, provide assistance and guidance to program staff, and collaborate with special education administration to monitor and enhance program quality and district processes.

As such, the district is seeking School Committee approval to hire a 0.6 Special Education Coordinator.