



Martin Luther School | Plan for ARP ESSER Funds

I – Funds Provided Directly to Martin Luther School

Martin Luther School will utilize the ARP-ESSER funds it receives directly to employ three, 10-month Reading Assistants who will be responsible for implementing reading instruction interventions for identified students both in-person and virtually. Specifically, the Reading Assistants will provide small group and individual reading instruction for students using the Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention System (LLI), coordinate work with the Reading Specialists and Classroom Teachers. Reading Assistants will ensure that students have consistent access to technology, materials, and activities to engage in the reading intervention process to enhance/enrich their learning experience and progress. By adding these key positions, continuity of critical reading instruction will be ensured even when instruction may be required to be virtual or would previously be interrupted due to a teacher absence, student absence or transition to virtual learning.

One primary goal at Martin Luther School is to enhance and improve reading levels for students as reading is a gateway to greater learning. Students' ability to read is correlated with their desire to attend and participate in their learning process. During the 2020 – 2021 school year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MLS had to transition to 100 % virtual instruction. During virtual instruction, which ran from March 2020 through June 2021, attendance for the majority of our students was greatly diminished, which resulted in lower levels of academic improvement.

In addition to funds for the Reading Assistant positions, a portion of the funds received will support the purchase of supplies such as books and reading materials for the reading program and that Teachers and Teaching Assistants, and Reading Assistants, will utilize to ensure students' access to appropriate instruction.

As noted already, one of the areas that Martin Luther School is focusing on to improve students' levels of academic progress is reading. Martin Luther School's proposed use of the ARP- ESSER funds is to employ three 10-month Reading Assistants who will conduct in-person interventions with students that will provide the 1:1, face-to-face, human connection to help students engage in their instruction, improve their reading levels, and be successful academically.

The Reading Assistants supported by the grant funds, along with Classroom Teachers, will receive training in the use of our reading program and engage in professional development as well.

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II – Funds Provided Directly to Martin Luther School Through Colonial School District

Continuity of Services

One primary goal at Martin Luther School is to enhance and improve reading levels for students as reading is a gateway to greater learning. Students' ability to read is correlated with their desire to attend and participate in their learning process. During the 2020 – 2021 school year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Martin Luther School (MLS) had to transition to 100% virtual instruction. During virtual instruction, which ran from March 2020 through June 2021, attendance for the majority of our students was greatly diminished, which resulted in lower levels of academic improvement. In order to address any delays in academic progress resulting from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Martin Luther will utilize the Colonial School District set aside of ARP-ESSER funds to support reading specialist salaries during the grant period until the funds are depleted.

The Reading Specialist is a 10- month position whose primary responsibilities will be to facilitate the ongoing implementation of the schoolwide reading program. This will involve advising/coaching and classroom ELA instruction including whole group, small group, and individual reading instruction for children; and coordinating reading instruction-related work within MLS. The Reading Specialist ensures compliance with operating policies and procedures established for the assigned function; ongoing communication with appropriate personnel; responding to inquiries or requests for information; maintaining appropriate records and completing data analysis to provide assigned reports. Martin Luther School is committed to ongoing assessment and evaluation of the students and overall program effectiveness in achieving identified goals. Reading Specialists work in concert with several Reading Assistants and address the specific areas of academic need for our students and monitor progress through qualitative and quantitative data analysis. Specifically, the School Entity will use the following methods to collect and analyze data: Renaissance Star Assessments, Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment (BAS), Branching Minds, Progress Monitoring, and feedback garnered during IEP meetings and other student conferences. Data gained from these formal and informal assessments will provide valuable information on the impact of the reading program as a whole and individual student progress.

Access to Instruction

One primary goal at Martin Luther School is to enhance and improve reading levels for students as reading is a gateway to greater learning. Students' ability to read is correlated with their desire to attend and participate in their learning process. During the 2020 – 2021 school year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Martin Luther School (MLS) had to transition to 100% virtual instruction. During virtual instruction, which ran from March 2020 through June 2021, attendance for the majority of our students was greatly diminished, which resulted in lower levels of academic improvement. In order to address any delays in academic progress resulting from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Martin Luther School will utilize the Colonial School District set aside of ARP-ESSER funds to support reading specialist salaries during the grant period until the funds are depleted. The Reading Specialist is a 10-month position whose primary responsibilities will be to facilitate the ongoing implementation of the schoolwide reading program.

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For any questions, please contact Lisa Hand, Supervisor of Administration, Martin Luther School, at Lhand@martinlutherschool.org, Lhand@gemmaservices.org, or 610-825-4440, x3403.