**ARIZONA PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

 **4200 North Ninety-Ninth Ave**

**Phoenix, Arizona 85037**

July 23, 2021

Dear Stakeholder:

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Arizona Preparatory Academy has been awarded $324,802.05 in the form of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds (ESSER III). We are eligible to apply for the funds in the form of a grant through completing an online application in ADE Grants Management system.

ESSER III requires that 20% of the funds must be reserved to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs.

To meet the requirements of the 20% set aside, Arizona Preparatory Academy (APA) offers summer school to all students. All of the core courses are available with an emphasis on ELA and Math. Students are able to utilize this opportunity to make up for lost time or get ahead. Teachers are available to assist students with any challenges they are having in a course. Teachers and staff are there from 7am-2pm, Monday-Friday and students attend 9am-2pm, Monday-Thursday.

APA will utilize the 80% remaining funds to provide the resources and assistance to all students which includes minorities and students who are economically-disadvantaged. APA has certified teachers and staff that will provide a social and emotional learning environment and culturally responsive teaching through classroom instruction and student lead activities. The curriculum uses a project-based model, and the funding will assist with the resources needed in the classrooms. The project-based model has been proven to improve student engagement and academic success. Also, teachers and staff will utilize the resources, and continue building a stronger relationship with families and the community.

Teachers and staff will be updated with the latest CDC guidance and State of Arizona law changes. Our updated in-person learning plan will be communicated to teachers, staff, students and parents as updates are made.

The spending plan includes summer school for July 2021 and 2022 and retaining quality teachers and staff to accomplish the above objectives.

**The spending plan outline is as follows:**

Salaries and benefits for six teachers, one paraprofessional, a school resource officer and an academic advisor, and an instructional leader and counselor. All core subjects will be covered.

Total cost of salaries for the four weeks in July 2021 is $28,384.60 and benefits cost is $7,724.63 for a total summer school cost in July 2021 of $36,109.23. The balance of our 20% set aside will be reserved for summer school in July 2022 in the amount of $28,851.18.

The 80% remainder will be spent as follows during the school year ending June 30, 2022:

Salaries and benefits for three teachers, one paraprofessional, and an instructional leader and counselor. Approximately 25% of our cleaner’s salary will be included for the additional costs of cleaning and sanitizing the facilities. Total cost of salaries for the school year ending June 30, 2022 for the included positions is $188,025 and benefits cost is $37,016.43 for a total cost to be reimbursed from the grant in the amount $225,041.43.

There is $34,800.21 to be used toward school indirect cost including grant compliance.

**What does this mean for students and families?**

This plan helps to ensure that funds are available for this year’s summer school, next year’s summer school and to help pay for the cost of instructional salaries to retain our quality teachers. The extra cleaning salary will help to ensure that our facility is kept cleaned and sanitized to minimize the spread of infectious disease.

A counselor is also available to address the mental health needs of all students and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Public Input Sought:**

This letter serves as an invitation to the public for input. Your comments and feedback are welcome for the next 30 days. We will continue to work on the grant application and submission of the grant to ADE. If we receive feedback that can improve our proposed spending plan, we will evaluate the feedback and amend the spending plan with ADE as considered to meet the stated objectives of ESSER III.

You may reach out to us by calling the school at 623-907-2661 or by email to enrollment@northstaraz.com.

Thank you for your time and attention to help improve Arizona Preparatory Academy.

Respectfully submitted by the ESSER III working committee at Arizona Preparatory Academy which includes our CEO, Grants Manager, Site Director and Instructional Leader.