

## ARP ESSER Plan

The District currently operates with a limited ability to serve the needs of the preschool student population due to lack of facility space. Additionally, the District was required to remove art from the curriculum of elementary school students, for the same reason. As a result, the District suffered learning loss at both the preschool and elementary levels due to lack of necessary facilities. This problem was magnified by the need for social distancing, due to COVID-19. The District plans to spend funds to address learning loss through the construction of a new facility to house additional preschool students and elementary art classes.

Specifically, this new facility will provide opportunity for art classes for elementary students, which studies show have a positive effect as it relates to student emotional and social wellbeing. This new facility will also provide the opportunity to serve 54% more preschool students, both during the school day, and during comprehensive afterschool and extended day programs, which will provide greater opportunity to implement learning interventions. The increase in space will also allow the preschool to expand from being tuition based, to supporting an increase in preschool classes for the disproportionately impacted students included in section 1111(b)(2)(B)(xi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, such as low-income students.

In addition, the new facility itself will increase student engagement, which will help address learning loss. Dr. Lennie Webber and Dr. Roger Konyndyk have conducted studies to show the link between student academic engagement and the built environment, regardless of other factors known to influence student engagement—such as socio-economic status, demographics, or urban/rural school settings. (*Spatial Design Makes a Difference in Student Engagement Levels: A Pilot Study for Grades 9-12*, European Scientific Journal, June 2017 edition Vol. 13, No. 16). Specifically, they found that the design of new classrooms that support mental focus, physical comfort, and wellbeing increase the level of student engagement, which is a high predictor of student success academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. Thus, this evidence-based study shows that the new facility will help address learning loss.