

Holyoke Community Charter School  
 Plan of Use for ESSER III Funds (December 2021)

Strategies for Enhanced Core Instruction	HCCS Plans to use ESSER III Funds to meet these Strategies
Purchasing and/or expanding use of high-quality, aligned instructional materials (any content area) and associated professional development	Under this grant HCCS plans to purchase materials to enhance and expand our Sports, Music, and STEM programs. HCCS will purchase the supplies necessary to create a new soccer program for our students; items for this expansion includes but are not limited to soccer balls, cones, nets, and uniform for the students. For our music program, we will purchase musical instruments that represent the culture of our student body. TEQ Mini Humanoid Robotic Kits will be purchased to enrich our science curriculum. Our goal is to re-engage students in learning and offer exposure to new areas based on our student interests while enhancing school core curriculum.
Professional development for teachers and administrators re: culturally responsive teaching	High Quality Professional Development that addresses cultural awareness is provided on an ongoing basis to teachers, administrators, and support staff.
Screening assessments and associated professional development (e.g., early literacy screening)	Under this grant, HCCS will purchase the MAP Assessment Tool, an all-inclusive assessment, that will be used to guide teaching practices and measure student progress in content areas.
Extending the school day/year and prioritizing student access to additional time by student need	Under this grant, HCCS will offer an extended summer school program to help students recover from the impact of the pandemic.
Tutoring programs and support, including early literacy tutoring (including training paraprofessionals) and peer tutoring programs.	Under this grant, HCCS will offer one-to-one targeted student support. This one-to-one support will work on an individual basis with students to meet them where they are in their learning journey and address learning gaps. The one-to-one support will work with the student’s academic team to best meet the needs of the students.
Developing or strengthening data cycles to facilitate and inform student learning and associated professional development and support personnel	Under this grant, HCCS will purchase the MAP Assessment Tool, an all-inclusive assessment, that will be used to guide teaching practices and measure student progress in content areas.

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<p><b>Strategies for Targeted Student Supports</b></p>	
<p>Acceleration academies (during school year vacations) and summer learning opportunities for individualized instruction and enrichment</p>	<p>Under this grant, HCCS will offer an extended summer school program to help students recover from the impact of the pandemic.</p>
<p>Language support programs, including dual language and heritage language programs (students learning in-home/native language) and associated professional development</p>	<p>Under this grant, HCCS will maintain four (4) EL and five (5) Spanish teachers and retain FTE's teacher count for academic year 2022.</p>
<p><b>Strategies for Talent Development and Staffing</b></p>	
<p>Academic support staff, including academic coaches, interventionists, student teaching residency programs, paraprofessionals</p>	<p>This strategy will help us hire and extend the contract for 1 year to five (5) Paraprofessionals that were hired under the ESSER II Grant. These Paraprofessionals provide one-to-one and/or small-group support to students.</p>
<p>Diversifying the educator workforce through recruitment and retention strategies</p>	<p>HCCS will continue to hire educators that represent the diversity of our school.</p>
<p>Strategies to staff hard-to-staff schools and positions with high-performing educators</p>	<p>Due to a higher than normal teacher shortage, HCCS experienced staffing attrition. In order to stabilize our workforce, HCCS will use ESSER III funds to offer a \$4,000 supplemental stipend to staff that will commit to work in our school for 4 years. Also, to support our staff under this grant, HCCS will reimburse staff \$50 per month for high speed internet. This strategy will allow us to grant staff access to work from home if they are sent home due to Covid-19 concerns.</p>

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<p>Increasing staff and opportunities for arts, enrichment, world languages, athletics, and elective courses</p>	<p>Under this grant, HCCS is proposing to offer 4 coaching opportunities for the expansion of the soccer program. Under this grant HCCS, will maintain existing FTEs for academic year 2022.</p>
<p>Developing leadership pipeline programs for schools</p>	<p>HCCS has in place a teacher induction and mentoring program to embrace new staff and mentor them as they come on board.</p>
<p><b>Strategies for Student Success - Social/Emotional and Mental Health Supports</b></p>	
<p>Increasing personnel and services to support holistic student needs, including school guidance and adjustment counselors, nurses, psychologists, and/or social workers</p>	<p>This strategy will help us hire and extend the contract for 1 year to 1 Social Worker, 1 Nurse, and 1 Medical Assistant that were hired under the ESSER II Grant.</p>
<p>Building/strengthening partnerships with community-based organizations to increase student/family access to services for mental/physical health and well-being</p>	<p>HCCS will use ESSER III funds to contract with an external provider for 3 years to provide therapy referrals for intense support intervention for families with students at risk.</p>
<p>Working with community-based organizations that provide enrichment during the school day and/or out of school time</p>	<p>HCCS is partnering to Westfield University to provide student enrichment programs during the school day.</p>
<p>Engaging community partners to build capacity among educators and support personnel to implement equitable and culturally responsive learning environments</p>	<p>HCCS will continue to provide high quality professional development to teachers, administrators, and support staff that address cultural awareness.</p>
<p>Facilities improvements to create healthy and safe school environments</p>	<p>Under this grant, HCCS is proposing to make the following facilities improvements to create a healthier and safer school environment: Purchase 7 industrial dehumidifiers to improve air circulation with low circulation flow, install automatic doors, and bathroom faucets sensors to reduce surface contact.</p>

Equitable Use of ESSER III Funds

HCCS is committed to provide equitable and inclusive services to students including high needs, special education and English language learning students. The School Counselor, three social workers and a team of four members of the student management department work closely with students and families to create a positive and supportive learning experience for students.

**Following CDC School Safety Recommendations**

Efforts to provide vaccination to school communities	In an effort to improve the vaccination rate in the community HCCS partnered with Curative to offer and administer Covid-19 vaccinations in house for eligible students, caregivers, and staff. HCCS has partnered with the Holyoke Community Center to schedule vaccination appointments for staff, students, and families. HCCS will use funds from this grant to incentivize unvaccinated staff by offering a \$500 one time stipend for those staff that are vaccinated.
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