

HOS Report  
7/22/21

Hiawatha Valley Mental Health

HVMH will continue to receive the grant that covers School Linked Therapy sessions. However, they have updated their formulas for other contractual work. In this case, for our Middle School Resiliency package that I was hoping to start again this year. They would come for 36 weeks, for which we have a tentative framework in place, but the requested fee is going to be \$7,676 for the year. When we implemented the program in SY2019 the fee was \$2000.

New Board member trainings

New Board members must complete 3 training sessions with MACS-they are working on getting those trainings scheduled. I will pass on the dates as soon as I have them. New members have to start them within 6 months of being seated, and complete them within 12 months.

*124E.07 Subd. 7. **Training.** Every charter school board member shall attend annual training throughout the member's term. All new board members shall attend initial training on the board's role and responsibilities, employment policies and practices, and financial management. A new board member who does not begin the required initial training within six months after being seated and complete that training within 12 months after being seated is automatically ineligible to continue to serve as a board member. The school shall include in its annual report the training each board member attended during the previous year.*

Lease Aid

Approved lease cost for FY22 of \$345,041.67 on 7/19.

WAPS

Will return to snow days as in "normal years" if needed. Not ready/wanting to move to elearning days yet. Much to be decided yet as the entire package was not addressed in legislation as was expected. Did apply to have a virtual component to the district.

VOA/Authorizer Change

We are officially, as of July 1, 2021, members of the VOA Authorizing group. They are already planning next years VOA conference, which one admin and one Board member are expected to attend. It will be in Bemidji again.

The Finance Committee has been established per the VOA contract and met just before this meeting. Minutes should be included in the consent agenda.

Stephanie will be here for her first site visit in late September/October so the school has had time to settle into the new school year.

Summer program

This started on 7/12 and has been smooth to this point. Our plan to braid together 3 funding streams (Targeted Services, FIN 162/162, and FIN 150) is working just the way it was intended-veteran teachers with low staff to student ratios. I remain grateful for such a great group of veteran teachers that have chosen to work with our students for this 3 week period. The big question now is “will we want to offer this next summer?” There are implications to both answers. Yes would mean expanding out Targeted Services for school year programming. No would mean not offering students this summer bridge to grow academically as well as leaving Federal money on the table.

We decided not to require face coverings for the summer due to the very low regional numbers and small class sizes for the summer. This is inline with the plan WAPS is following. Jacque Henderson, the WAPS Covid Coordinator, has been an excellent resource and partner as we work to ensure the health of our students and staff.

#### Fall expectations

As we wait for clear MDH / MDE guidance for the start of the year, it appears that we will be starting with many of the same protocols as last year. Face coverings remain to be decided upon yet as September is far off yet, but pods, 3' of distancing, classroom lunches, and 7:15 start for staff may likely remain. This is due to vaccinations for young children not being available yet. In observing the processes so far, it stands to reason that after a few months of elementary age vaccinations being available those other protocols may start to be stripped away.

It is much too early to make any declarations at this point, but we will continue to monitor the guidelines as they are developed for the fall.

#### ESSER III

This application is due October 1. This one is going to take a lot of work to figure out how to draft the application and to hit all the marks. My plan is to start working on this in August which will include parent input via surveys, in person meetings, or virtual meetings. 20% must be reserved for “learning loss” and consumed during summer or after school programs.

To start the process, we had to make sure we had the federal requirements covered which included a preparedness plan, a survey, and survey results which are all posted on our website.

#### Teacher licensing

We are working diligently to ensure that our staff has the proper training and licensing for the school year. All jobs were posted in early April to ensure that the 60 day posting requirement for internal hires would be met. Now we wait for PELSB to approve the applications.

#### Omnibus Education Bill

There is a brief overview of the items in the Bill included in this folder. Two quick items not included in the overview are Meetings and Distance Learning.

- Distance Learning was a topic of discussion, but no legislative action was taken, so distance learning is essentially done and gone. There will be more on this in the future, and many schools have added a virtual learning component to their school districts.
- Meetings: With the expiration of the Governors Emergency Orders regarding the pandemic, the rules for meetings by bodies subject to the Open Meeting Law go back to the normal five (5) requirements which are stated in [MN Statutes 13D.02](#).

#### Statewide Testing Data release timelines

Date	Description of Resources or Event
Friday, Aug. 6	Test Results Summary files available for download. These files provide embargoed summary results.
Wednesday, Aug. 25	Embargoed access to embargoed assessment downloadable data file including state, all districts, and all school-level data in Secure Reports
Thursday, Aug. 26	Media receives access to embargoed assessment downloadable data file including state, all districts, and all school-level data.
Thursday, Aug. 26	Individual Student Reports (ISRs) arrive in districts. Assessment results available in PearsonAccess Next (MCA/MTAS) and WIDA AMS (ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS).
Friday, Aug. 27	Public release of assessment results in Data Center.

Implementation of updated State Standards from MDE mailing 7/16/21

*"REVISED ACADEMIC STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION SUSPENSION. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.021, the commissioner of education must suspend until June 1, 2023 any implementation of revised academic standards not already implemented as of January 1, 2021 under Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.021. This suspension does not prevent the commissioner from continuing with current rulemaking activities or developing future statewide assessments.*

*EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment."*

This impacts arts and physical education which were scheduled for implementation next year. They are both now required for implementation in the 2023-24 school year. It does **not** impact any other standards areas. The **new** full implementation schedule is:

- Physical Education: 2023-24
- Arts: 2023-24
- Science: 2024-25
- English Language Arts: 2025-26
- Social Studies: TBD (likely 2026-27)
- Mathematics: TBD (likely 2027-28)

## Online/blended learning

During the COVID-19 peacetime emergency, Minnesota public schools were required to offer a distance learning option for families. The peacetime emergency has ended, but many school districts and charter schools would like to continue offering these options for their students and families. MDE has created a provisional, expedited approval process for online and blended learning so that districts and schools can continue to meet the needs of all students and families. Online and blended learning may be offered for students and families but **student participation cannot be required**. In the 2021-22 school year, schools that are not already approved online learning providers may choose to offer to their resident and previously-enrolled students:

1. Blended learning where students learn primarily in the building but receive instruction online for up to 20% of their weekly schedule. There is **no requirement to notify MDE** if providing this option.
2. Blended learning where students learn primarily in the building but receive instruction online for 21% to 50% of their weekly schedule. Districts and charter schools **must notify and submit program information** to MDE for this option.
3. Blended learning where students receive instruction online for more than 50% of their weekly schedule. Districts and charter schools **must apply for provisional approval as an online learning provider**.
4. Online learning where students learn fully online away from a school building for one or more courses. Districts and charter schools **must apply for provisional approval as an online learning provider**.

In order to offer these options, districts and schools must agree to assurances that include statutory requirements and best practices such as communication with families, teacher schedules and workloads, and other key elements to ensure quality and equity-focused programs.

**School districts may only offer the above options to families and students, they cannot require families and students to opt-in to a blended or online learning option.** To learn more about these options, including application information, read the full [Online and Blending Learning Options for the 2021-22 School Year](#) document.

## Further American Rescue Act funding

Bluffview Montessori has the ability to receive additional grants under the American Rescue Plan for Special Education. These funds will be run under SERVS using finance 140, 141, 143, and 144. Funds may be used for all allowable purposes under Part B of IDEA and are subject to all requirements and provisions that apply to IDEA funds, including requirements and provisions under IDEA, the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Uniform Guidance. The Office of Special Education Programs has issued general guidance around uses of these funds and reminds LEAs to consider sustainability. LEAs should focus on challenges from the pandemic, including:

- School re-entry
- Disruption in the education of children with disabilities
- Mental health services

At this point in time, BKDV is asking all their clients to complete the application process. We will not know what that award amount is until mid to late August. Depending on the schools Maintenance of Effort situation, it might be recommended that we decline the award.

*Federal Relief Funding Updates from last month as a resource:*

## **Resources**

- [Federal COVID-19 Funding Flow Chart](#): In response to a number requests, MDE has put together a one-page flow chart that shows all of the various federal relief funds that have come to the State of Minnesota for Education. This flow chart can be found on MDE's [Federal Relief Funds](#) webpage.
- *Application and budget steps: MDE has recently posted updated SERVS Application and Budget Steps instructions which includes information on how to accept funds, modify budgets and carrying funds forward. This document can be found at [Federal COVID-19 Funds Application and Budget Steps](#).*

## **Required “Safe Return to In-Person Learning” Plan**

As a condition of accepting the ESSER III award (FIN160 & FIN161), the LEA must develop, with community input, a Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan and **post it for public comment within 30 days of receiving the ESSER III award (June 21, 2021)**. The requirements for the ESSER III Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan can be found in the [Interim Final Rule](#) and must describe how “[the LEA] will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.” The Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan must be reviewed regularly, at least every six months, and the LEA must seek additional public comment on revisions. LEAs must retain documentation of the plan development, plan review, public comment, and summary of public comment.

The recent [FAQ document from ED](#) published last week highlights in A-4: “[a]n LEA that developed a school reopening and continuity of services plan prior to the date of enactment of the ARP Act and that meets the above requirements for public comment will be deemed in compliance but, within no more than six months, the LEA must review and, if necessary, revise the plan to meet the requirements of the interim final requirements.” Minnesota LEAs that followed the MN [Safe Learning Plan](#) guidance and included staff, families, and students in the development (page 9) are likely close to meeting this federal requirement with the addition of public comment before June 21 and updates within the next six months.

Email [mde.federalCOVIDfunds@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.federalCOVIDfunds@state.mn.us) with questions.

## **Additional Information and Upcoming Deadlines**

### **GEER I and ESSER I Summer 2020 Funding (FIN151, FIN152, FIN153)**

These funds are for technology and summer school programming starting in summer 2020. These funds are being distributed via SERVS.

- Applications were due by May 1, 2021 (this deadline has passed)
- Funds for expenditures from January 1-June 30, 2021 must be drawn by September 15, 2021
- Funds can be spent through September 30, 2022 and must be drawn by December 12, 2022

### **Flexible American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds for Summer Academic and Mental Health Supports (FIN150)**

\$33.6 million partnerships and support to provide services to expand summer academic and mental health supports including transportation and meals, school-based summer programs in the community, and opportunities for enrichment, social and emotional skill building, mental health supports, and field trips for hands-on learning opportunities.

- Streamlined applications are now available in SERVS
- FY 21 application is due June 18, 2021

- FY 22 application will be posted by June 18, 2021
- Funds for this initiative are available through September 30, 2022

## **ESSER II**

- The applications for ESSER II 90% allocation and the allocation to entities that don't receive the 90% allocation are due June 30, 2021 (FIN155 or FIN156)

## **Expanded Summer Programming (FIN162, FIN163 and FIN164) under ESSER II**

\$57.5 million in funding for teachers to support in-person instruction as well as other expenses related to providing summer school, including class size reduction, longer programming hours or days, enrichment supports, transportation, or personal protective equipment.

- The allocation is based on actual student membership hours. This will be determined at the end of the summer and final allocations will be made. Unallocated dollars will be carried forward for summer programs next summer.
- Dollars allocated and not expended will be carried forward for next summer.

## **ARP ESSER III Applications (FIN160 & FIN161)**

The [allocations and applications for ESSER III 90% to LEAs](#) (following the SY21 Title I, Part A formula) are available in [SERVS Financial](#) under finance codes (FIN) 160 and 161. Applications are due no later than October 1, 2021. LEAs are able to immediately obligate allowable activities to the FIN160 and FIN161 awards. The obligation period is July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2024. LEAs can draw down against FIN160 and FIN161 once there is an approved application and budget in SERVS and the services are received by the LEA.

Both applications allow for rapid approval when the LEA is using all ESSER III funds to support allowable activities under the [State Education Priorities](#). For FIN161, the activities must be for summer learning or enrichment, comprehensive afterschool programs, extended day programs, and/or extended year programs. Review the [ESSER III FIN160 & FIN161 Overview](#) document for more information.

Email [mde.federalCOVIDfunds@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.federalCOVIDfunds@state.mn.us) with questions.

## **Other**

SY22 ESEA Title applications (FIN401, FIN406, FIN414, FIN417, and FIN433) will open in SERVS next week and are due September 1, 2021. Allocations for these finance codes are posted on the MDE website.

[3/12/21 updated Stay Safe Learning Plan](#)

[Newest Quarantine Guidance 12/7](#)

[BMS website dashboard](#)

[Daily Reported Case Tracking doc](#)

[Stay Safe MN 14 day data for K-12 by County](#)