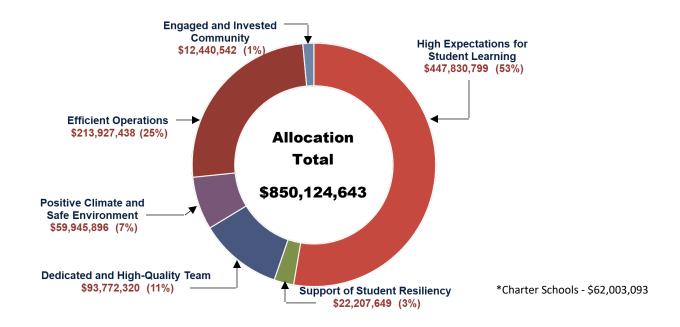
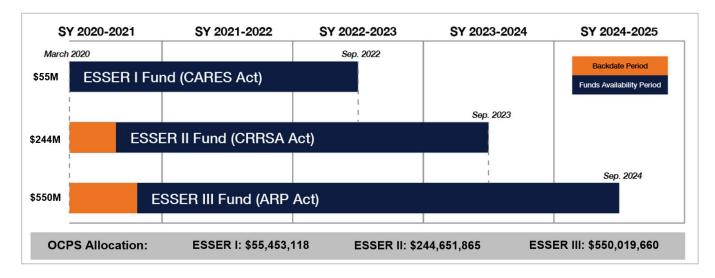
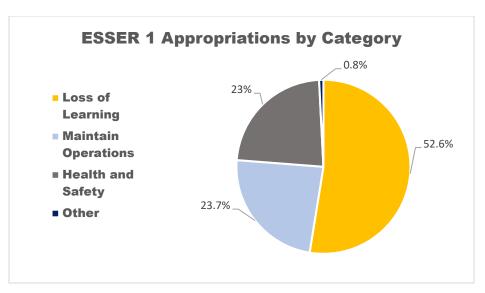


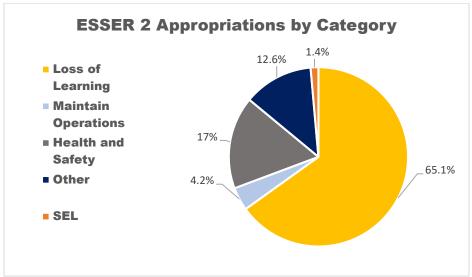
# Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

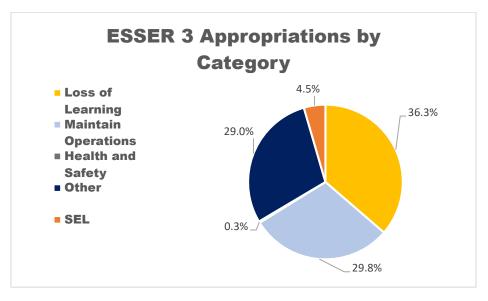


## Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Act Funds Comparison by Year









Orange County Public Schools aligned the activities funded through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding to the OCPS 2025 Strategic Plan. Below, you will see the number of unique activities as they align to the strategic plan objectives:

- High Expectations for Student Learning (74 activities)
- Support of Student Resiliency (17 activities)
- Dedicated and High-Quality Team (17 activities)
- Positive Climate and Safe Environment (2 activities)
- Efficient Operations (40 activities)
- Engaged and Invested Community (0 activities)

The 150 distinctive activities are monitored by the Federal Programs Department and involve 19 fund managers and 57 fund contacts across all district departments and divisions. These activities were further delineated by the type of initiative in order to provide for stakeholder transparency.

- Loss of Learning (61 activities)
- Tier 1 Instruction (24 activities)
- Maintain Operations (33 activities)
- Health and Safety (9 activities)
- Social Emotional Learning (13 activities)
- Other (10 activities)

Here are a few of the highlighted activities in some of the initiative categories:

## **Loss of Learning**

#### Intervention Teachers

Provided 400 to 800 intervention teachers, depending on the school year, at selected schools to support core instruction as well as push-in and pull-out services for our lowest-performing students. Schools that had a 75% fill rate showed 70% higher learning growth rates than those that did not.

#### **Tutoring**

Tutoring was provided to K-12 students for additional support on a variety of platforms, including both inperson and virtual tutoring sessions. Elementary school tutoring was provided for both remedial and acceleration purposes. Secondary school tutoring centered on content acquisition and assistance on nationally normed exams such as AP, SAT, and ACT.

#### **Common Planning Days**

Provided the opportunity for up to 7 additional planning days for each instructor to collaborate on data-driven lesson plans supporting daily instruction. Sessions occurred at 221 sites throughout the school year, either during the school day with substitutes provided or on Saturdays.

## **Maintain Operation**

#### **Impact Infrastructure**

The Instructional Continuity Plan requires school districts to provide a system to support continuous learning during school closures. Prior to the pandemic, OCPS had less than 15,000 active courses on our Canvas platform. That number increased by 100% at the outset of the pandemic. The learning management system needed to be upgraded to allow for the increase of 11% in logins while at the same time allowing school and district leadership teams the ability to monitor usage and lessons conducted on the site.

#### **HVAC Systems**

Retro-commissioning of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems occurred at 90 sites updating 477 units to improve the air quality for all stakeholders.

## Technology/Audio Enhancement

Digital devices were purchased, repaired, or refreshed as needed to support distance and digital learning. Audio enhancement was upgraded in approximately 500 individual classrooms for equity purposes when delivering digital learning lessons.

## **Health and Safety**

#### **Health Workers**

221 licensed practical nurses, health assistants, or contracted labor were utilized to support the health and wellbeing of both staff and students. The additional personnel allowed schools to open a sick and well clinic in schools to provide the safest atmosphere available.

#### **Transportation**

Due to bus driver shortages, 926 GPS tablets were purchased for buses to provide updated bus route sheets with audio turn-by-turn directions to reduce the chance of substitute drivers getting lost. This improved the on-time arrival rates of students to school and allowed for boarding and exit tracking of students, increasing the accuracy of student reporting for safety.

#### **PPE Supplies**

Personal protective equipment was continually provided to all district sites. These supplies included, but were not limited to, hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, cleaning agents, and digital thermometers. The health and safety of staff and students were supported through additional hours provided to custodial workers to keep environments clean and safe for all stakeholders.

## **Social Emotional Learning**

#### **Mental Health Workers**

24 additional mental health counselors were hired to support the needs of students. 55% more students received services over the past two years. In addition, 61% more counseling referrals were made over the same time period.

#### **Social Workers**

54.5 additional social workers were hired, allowing the school district to assign a 1:1 social worker in all secondary schools and a 1:3 ratio for all elementary schools. These individuals provided additional direct counseling, threat response, and attendance support for their assigned schools.

#### **Home Visits**

Home visits to high school students increased from less than 200 to 700+ over the past two summers. The focus of these visits was to address academic, behavioral, mental health, and school-year attendance concerns.

#### **Other**

#### **Retention Bonuses**

Retention bonuses were distributed to staff members based on their number of years of service. The current instructional retention is at 92.3%, up from the prepandemic rate of 86%.

## Additional Assistant Principals

36 elementary school assistant principals were hired to support smaller schools that do not generate one on their own based on FTE. These administrators have been able to assist the principal in the management of the school while keeping an intense focus on classroom instruction.

## Professional Development

Professional development was provided for staff members on early learning literacy, the Florida B.E.S.T. standards, AIM First Step, and the K-12 Content Curriculum. 2,500 instructors took advantage of the AIM training, which supported the Science of Reading, targeting Phonological Awareness, Decoding, and Spelling. An additional 5,775 seats were filled for content instructional trainings during the 2023-2024 school year.