

# Full Funding for Public Schools in a Post COVID Recovery Funds Era

Supporting Equity in Vermont Schools

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# Introduction

Over the past four years over 400 million dollars of COVID Recovery Funds has been funneled into Vermont public schools. Many of these funds went to important projects that supported students in need such as mental health counselors, targeted tutoring programs, or equity positions. As this funding wraps up in the fall of 2024 school communities need to reflect on what they have learned through this process. What impact has this influx of money had on students? Have the funds truly supported the most vulnerable students who were most impacted by COVID-19? What happens when we have schools that are being fully funded?

In this report we take stock of positions, projects, and initiatives that were funded through COVID Recovery Funds as an opportunity to reflect on the impact this funding has had. We encourage school communities to reflect critically on the ways these funds have supported students and how these investments can be sustained. [How are we going to continue to fund essential programs that help our students, schools and communities?](#)

## About These Funds

Vermont schools received historic one time investments in public education from the Federal Government as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This money came through three separate legislative acts and was distributed in three pots of money: ESSER I, ESSER II, ESSER III. [This report is looking solely at ESSER III](#), which was the largest one time invest in public education in our nation's history. ESSER III has a requirement that a minimum amount of the money (20%) be spent on specific programs and activities to help make up for learning loss experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The rest of the money (80%) should be used for programs and services that address the "academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students" with a specific focus on the needs of historically marginalized students ([see guidance](#)).

# What We Analyzed

This is a look at how schools have allocated the largest round of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds, ESSER III, to date. All of the information was gathered from the official Vermont Agency of Education database\*. The information is current as of January 8th, 2024.

The items highlighted for each School District/Supervisory Union is reflective of only some of the investments made with ESSER III funds. Many Districts and SUs have invested in additional areas. If you are looking for more information specific to a District or SU you can reach out to Andrew Emrich, American Rescue Plan Coordinator at Vermont-NEA ([aemrich@vtnea.org](mailto:aemrich@vtnea.org)).

It is important to note that all of the information below is still subject to change as a School District/Supervisory Union can make amendments to their ESSER III allocations until June 1st, 2024.

\*All of the information was gathered from the Vermont-AOE Grant Management System website, by directly going through the budget detail for the ESSER III submitted applications

# Addison-Rutland

School District/ Supervisory Union	Funds Received	Supports Funded with this Money as of 1/08/24
<b>Addison Central</b>	\$3,356,524.00	Interventionists, Special Educator, Social Worker, Multilingual Community Liaisons, Summer/After School Programming, Staff Retention, Professional Development, HVAC Replacement
<b>Addison Northwest</b>	\$1,697,273.00	Restorative Practices Staff, Special Educator SLP, Interventionists, Social Worker, HVAC Improvements, Technology Equipment
<b>Greater Rutland</b>	\$3,646,297.00	Building Substitutes, Professional Development, Building Safety and Security, Student Therapeutic/Wellness Program, Technology Supplies, Air Purification Devices, Summer and Extended, Student enrichment opportunities
<b>Mill River</b>	\$1,626,865.00	Academic Interventionists, Staff Retention, School Counselor, Home School Coordinator, Modular Unit, Flooring Replacement, Woodshop Supplies, Outdoor Classroom Supplies, Student Devices
<b>Mt. Abe</b>	\$2,915,837.00	Extended School Day/Year Staffing, Additional Teachers, Permanent Substitutes, Social Workers, Interventionists, Staff Retention, Professional Development, STEAM Materials, Technology Equipment, Outdoor Furniture, HVAC, Outdoor Structures
<b>Rutland City</b>	\$11,257,097.00	Tutoring, Academic Interventionists, Community Liaison, Counseling Staff, Professional Development, Summer Programming, Absestos Removal, Auditorium Work, Air Filter, Server Upgrades, HVAC Systems, Vans, Outdoor Learning Spaces
<b>Rutland Northeast</b>	\$4,958,268.00	Interventionists, Nurses, Summer Programming, Restorative Practices Staff, Tech Integration Staff, Summer Bus Drivers, Technology Supplies, Neshobe Trailer
<b>Slate Valley</b>	\$4,103,032.00	Academic Support, Interventionists, School Based Clinicians, Boys and Girls Club, Outdoor Learning/STEAM, Middle School Projects

# Central Vermont

School District/ Supervisory Union	Funds Received	Supports Funded with this Money as of 1/08/24
Barre	\$10,497,883.00	Social Workers, Behavior Interventionists, Academic Interventionists, Summer and before/after school support, mental health therapist, Sprinkler and HVAC improvements, Math and Literacy Materials, STEAM Maker Carts
Caledonia Central	\$4,210,625.00	Summer Programming, Nurses, After school services, student enrichment programs, Math/Science Position, Math and English Language Interventionists, SEL Interventionists, Boiler Project
Central VT SU	\$2,985,102.00	Academic Interventionists, SEL Coach, Custodial Staff, PreK program, Professional Development, Contract with WCMH, After school Program, Air flow/circulation at Williamstown
Harwood	\$3,111,680.00	Academic Interventionists, On staff substitutes, Tutoring, Guidance Counselors, Custodians, Summer School Transportation, Sound Field Assistive Technology
Montpelier- Roxbury	\$2,230,859.00	Interventionists, Teletherapy Services, Special Education Space Renovation, Gym Renovation, Playground, Cafeteria Renovations, Literacy Training Professional Development
Orange Southwest	\$2,998,235.00	Paraeducators, After School tutoring, Pre-K Teachers, Summer Programming, Social Workers, Interventionists, Transportation, Field Trips, Robotic Supplies, Innovation Space Equipment and Supplies
Orleans Southwest	\$3,338,698.00	Academic Interventionists, Behavior Specialists, After and Summer School Services, Artist Residency, HVAC Work, Cybersecurity Tools, Backup Generators, Vans
Washington Central	\$2,480,636.00	Interventionists, Paraeducator, Nurses, School Counselors, Energy Recovery Units

# Chittenden

School District/ Supervisory Union	Funds Received	Supports Funded with this Money as of 1/08/24
Burlington	\$13,794,740.00	English Language Positions, Academic Interventionists, Student Support paraeducators, SEL Coordinator, Instructional Coaches, Restorative Engagement Coordinator, School Psychologists, Additional Custodians, Translation Services, Professional Development, PE Facilities Rental, Instructional Technology
Champlain Valley	\$4,352,660.00	Summer program salaries, counselor salary, staff mentoring, Social Workers' Howard Center Contract, Summer transportation, Diversity books for library classrooms
Colchester	\$3,609,015.00	Summer Program Staffing, Academic Interventionists, SEL Coordinator, CHS Bathroom Renovation, Summer Program Transportation, SEL Curriculum
Essex Westford	\$4,960,750.00	preschool teacher, academic interventionists, EWSD Reads Staff, 504 Coordinator, SEL Coach, Restorative Practices Staff, English Language Learner Coordinator, Summer Transportation Staff, Mental Health Services, Professional Development, Assessment Materials
Milton	\$2,807,033.00	Literacy Specialists, After School Literacy Program, Summer programs, Health Educator, Math Interventionists, Home to School Liaison, Social Worker, Great Schools Partnership, Equity/Diversity/Inclusion Training, HVAC for MHS Innovative Lab, Outdoor Classroom, HVAC for 2 Herrick Ave
Mt. Mansfield	\$886,076.00	Math Interventionist, Equity Coach, Literacy Interventionist, Instructional Assistants, Professional Development, Nature/Play Based learning supplies and resources, outdoor structures
South Burlington	\$3,104,131.00	Math Interventionists, Para-educators, Long-term Subs, Tutors, Nurses, Guidance Counselor, School-Based Clinician, Laptops, Health and Wellness, Art, Music, Language Arts, Technology, and Social Studies Teachers
Winooski	\$7,444,077.00	English Language Learner Teachers, Math and Reading Interventionists, PreK Assistant, English Language Learner Intake and Family Engagement, Community Liaisons, Technology Technician, Social Workers, Furniture, HVAC Upgrades

# Northeast Kingdom

School District/ Supervisory Union	Funds Received	Supports Funded with this Money as of 1/08/24
Essex North	\$2,441,815.00	Family School Coordinator, Facilities and Maintenance Director, Additional Elementary Teacher, Website Development, Connector Project, Technology Supplies
Kingdom East	\$7,649,703.00	Summer Camp Salaries, STEAM Coach, Interventionists, Support Staff, PreK Teacher, IEP Case Manager, Home School Coordinators, Nurses, Professional Development, Computer devices and Whiteboards,
North Country	\$10,118,837.00	Tutors, English Language Learner Teacher, Community Outreach Liaison, Summer Supports, Instructional Coaches, Grow Your Own Investments, Professional Development, STEAM Supplies, Guidance Counselors, Nurses, Library Media Specialists, Custodians, Social Workers, Classroom Aides
Orleans Central	\$8,553,022.00	Staff Retention, Summer Program Staffing, Mentor Training, After School Director, SEL Specialists, Academic Interventionists, Mental Health Services, Professional Development, Tuition for staff pursuing special education, HVAC Improvements, Generators, Phonics Program, STEM Supplies, Replace Flooring
St. Johnsbury	\$7,492,974.00	STEAM Teacher, Librarian, Summer Programming, PE Teacher, Long Term Subs, Nurse, School Psychologists, Health Teacher, Outdoor Learning Coordinator, School Based Clinician, Field Trip Fees, Staff and Student Wellness Services, Playground Renovation, Outdoor Bathroom, Interior Stairs, Outdoor Classrooms

# Northwestern Vermont

School District/ Supervisory Union	Funds Received	Supports Funded with this Money as of 1/08/24
Franklin Northeast	\$6,014,946.00	After School Instructors, Interventionists, Staff Retention, Summer Programming, Equity Director, Talk Space, Mental Health Clinicians, Diverse and Culturally Responsive Curriculum, Professional Development, Transportation, Field Trips, Science Materials
Franklin West	\$2,175,997.00	Summer Programming, Student Support Services, Professional Development, GEMS Nurses, Playground, IT Equipment
Grand Isle	\$2,831,893.00	Building Based Substitutes, Staff Retention, Afterschool and Summer Programming, Interventionists, Social Worker, Professional Development, Technology Supplies, Rock Wall
Lamoille North	\$5,091,827.00	Interventionists, Summer Programming, Home-School Liaison, Counseling and Behavioral Supports, Nurses, DEI Staffing, Staff Retention, DEI Investments, Technology Supports
Lamoille South (Elmore- Morristown)	\$4,795,006.00	Enrichment Programming, PK Teacher and Aides, Interventionists, After School Tutoring, Building Based Subs, School Based Clinicians, Behavioral Interventionists, Professional Development, Robofloor Scrubbers, Playground Fence
Maple Run	\$8,575,662.00	Extended School Year Programming, Alternative Programming, Additional Teachers, Guidance Counselor, HVAC investments, Transportation services
Missisquoi Valley	\$7,920,357.00	Interventionist, After School Programming, Guidance Counselor, Nurses, Tutoring, Custodial Support, Professional Development, Franklin School Construction/Renovation, Technology Devices



# Southern Vermont

School District/ Supervisory Union	Funds Received	Supports Funded with this Money as of 1/08/24
Bennington Rutland	\$3,444,580.00	English Language Learner Teacher, Para Support, Mental Health Positions, Nurse, Professional Development, Instrument purchase and Instrument Repairs, technology supplies, Construction Projects, Interventionists
Southwest VT	\$17,008,871.00	Summer and Extended Day Programming, Academic Interventionists, Art Therapist, Extensive HVAC work, Elevator, Tutoring, Extensive Construction Costs
Springfield	\$7,245,902.00	PreK Teachers, Summer Programming, Tutoring, Academic Interventionists, Nurse, Custodians, Behavior Interventionist, Upgrade Ventilation
Two Rivers	\$2,937,595.00	Special Educator, Building Subs, Summer Camp Programming, Restorative Practices Staffing, Science Recovery, Professional Development, Ventilation Project, Bikes, Books, Playground Equipment
Windam Central	\$2,240,792.00	Instruction Positions, Transportation, Supplies (ESSER III investments lacks details and descriptions in the Grant Management System)
Windham Northeast	\$13,082,076.00	Summer Programming, After School Programming, School Based Clinician, Restorative Practices Staff, Mental Health Supports, Professional Development, Single Entrance Updates, Redesign of BFUHS Science Wing, Upgrade BFUHS HVAC
Windham Southeast	\$9,584,003.00	Summer Programming, Nurses, Data and Communications Security, Professional Development, Social Workers, Instructional Coaches, Academic Support Teachers, HVAC Projects, Ropes Structure, Tutoring, Outdoor Classroom
Windham Southwest	\$1,849,593.00	Summer Programming, Paraeducators, Educator Retention, Interventionists, Professional Development, Transportation

# Upper Valley

School District/ Supervisory Union	Funds Received	Supports Funded with this Money as of 1/08/24
Hartford	\$2,393,598.00	PreK Teachers, English Language Learners Teacher, Interventionists, After school Programming, Related Arts Teachers, Mentoring Program, Translation Services, Behavior Interventionists, Professional Development, Equitable Curriculum
Orange East	\$6,643,119.00	Alternative Education Program, Staff Retention, Professional Development, Homeless Transportation, Laptops, Bikes and Helmets, STEAM Tables, Interventionists, Short and Long Term Substitutes, PreK Teacher, Extended Learning, HVAC Work, Library Renovation, STEM Lab
Rivendell	\$1,088,511.00	Interventionists, Mentoring Staff, Farm to School Staff, Social Emotional Services, Outdoor Education
SAU/Norwich	\$205,216.00	Math and Reading Interventionists, Literacy Materials, Technology Equipment
White River Valley	\$3,633,912.00	Summer Programming, Math Interventionists, Mental Health Supports, Professional Development, HVAC Improvements, Construction Projects, Technology Equipment, Guidance Counselor, Flexible Pathways Teacher, Literacy Interventionists
Windsor Central (Mountain Views)	\$2,696,675.00	Interventionists, Summer Programming, Counselor, Mentorship Program, Professional Development, Equity Consultant, Outdoor Learning Spaces, Access to SAT and AP Exams, Technology Tools, Air Quality Improvements
Windsor Southeast	\$2,611,198.00	Classroom Teachers, Interventionist, Summer Programming, DEI Coordinator, Mental Health Clinician, Professional Development, Networking Infrastructure and Access Points

# Ways to get engaged

We created this report as a tool for you to organize for change in your school community. With this information you have more power and voice to support transformation. Here are some tips on how to organize for full funding for public schools in your district:

- Attend school board meetings and ask questions if you don't understand something
- Connect and build relationships with other people in your school community working to fully fund public schools and support student equity
- Consider running as a pro-public education and pro-equity school board member
- Be aware of anti-public school groups like Mom's for liberty or the voucher movement. We need to continue to speak up to support our public schools.
- Contact us! We are here to support you:  
Alyssa Chen (alyssa.edjvt@gmail.com) Coordinator at the Education Justice Coalition of VT  
Andrew Emrich (aemrich@vtnea.org), ARP Coordinator at Vermont - NEA

# Additional Resources

- [COVID Recovery Toolkit](#)
- [A Report of Emergency School Relief Spending In Vermont Schools](#)
- [EdJ Coalition Website](#)
- [Department of Education ESSER FAQ](#)
- [Vermont Agency of Education Emergency Funding Hub](#)
- [Vermont Local Education Agency ESSER Spending Dashboard](#)
- [Advocating Across Governments Guides](#)