



DISTRICT: Public Plan

Community Engagement Checklist

NOTE: If any of your answers to the following questions require additional space, please use the supplemental blank pages at the end of this document.

Interim Final Requirements from the U.S. Department of Education: *LEA ARP ESSER Plan Meaningful Consultation*

“COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on the Nation’s education system. In addition to disrupting teaching and learning, it has exacerbated existing inequities in our schools and school districts. Every aspect of student life has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic: students’ classes and courses of study have been interrupted and/or delayed and students’ social, emotional, and mental health have been negatively impacted by the isolation and anxiety of living through a pandemic and quarantine along with the additional associated stresses placed on their families.

As students and teachers continue to return to full-time in-person education, they will have important insights into how schools should approach prevention and mitigation of COVID-19, and into what may be needed to support student success. For this reason, in developing their ARP ESSER plans, LEAs will be required to meaningfully consult with students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions. Additionally, an LEA is also required to engage in meaningful consultation with each of the following, to the extent present in or served by the LEA: Tribes; civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students. An LEA’s decisions about how to use its ARP ESSER funds will directly impact the students,

families, and stakeholders in their school district, and thus the LEA’s plans must be tailored to the specific needs faced by students and schools within the district. These diverse stakeholders will have significant insight into what prevention and mitigation strategies should be pursued to keep students and staff safe, as well as how the various COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies impact teaching, learning, and day-to-day school experiences.

With regard to addressing the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, particularly those most impacted by the pandemic, we believe that it is critical that LEAs solicit and consider the input of students and their families to identify their most pressing needs. Close coordination with Tribes is critical to effective support for Native American students, so LEAs need to consult Tribes, as applicable. In addition, the Department understands educators and students’ families will have important insights into and observations of students’ academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs garnered from their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stakeholders will similarly have critical insights into how best to address the academic impact of lost instructional time that LEAs are required to address with at least 20 percent of their ARP ESSER funds. For all of these reasons, through this consultation, LEAs will be better positioned to fully plan to use ARP ESSER funds to adequately respond to the needs of all students, particularly those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.”



ESSER 3.0 Community Engagement Checklist

On Friday, Aug. 27, 2021, Knox County Schools submitted an application to the State of Tennessee in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021.

As part of that application, the district submitted feedback from various stakeholders who provided important insights and observations into COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies, as well as the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students. Below is a summary of stakeholders engaged and the strategies used to engage those groups.

Group	Number Engaged	Responses Received	Mode(s) of Engagement
Students	60,965	1,537	1,536 through survey 1 at community meeting
Families	60,965	10,221	10,214 through survey 7 focus group
Elected Officials and School Board Members	9	34	27 through survey 7 at community meetings
School and District Administrators	70,409	222	222 through survey 1 at community meeting
Principals	94	14	1 through survey 13 through focus group
Other Educators	9,444	2,597	2,563 through survey 30 through focus groups 4 at community meetings
School Staff	9,444	945	945 through survey
Civil Rights Organizations	1 : President of NAACP	42	41 through survey 1 at community meeting
Disability Rights Organizations	1 : Lead Organizer Justice Knox	31	31 through survey
Interest Group: Student with Disabilities	1 : Lead Organizer Justice Knox	6	6 through survey

Interest Group: English Language Learners	1 : CEO of Centro Hispano	1	1 at community meeting
Interest Group: Children Experiencing Homelessness	1 : CEO of CAC	1	1 through survey
Interest Group: Migratory Students	1 : CEO of Centro Hispano	2	2 through survey
Interest Group: Students who are Incarcerated	1 : Lead Organizer Justice Knox	44	37 through survey 7 at community meeting
Interest Group: Underserved Students	6 : CEOs of Big Brother, Big Sister; Boys and Girls Club; Knox Education Foundation; Leadership Knoxville; Urban League; YMCA	23	23 through survey

Additional information related to the public engagement:

Because we engaged over one quarter of our principals through focus groups, we did not disaggregate them from other school administrators in our wider survey. We also captured Special Education Administrators within the wider “School and District Administrators” designation.

Supplemental responses:

Survey respondents

Interest Group: Students with Disabilities

1. Decoding Dyslexia TN; Knox County Dyslexia Advisory Council
2. Down Syndrome Awareness Group (DSAG)
3. Down Syndrome Awareness Group of East Tennessee
4. Knoxville County Dyslexia Advisory Council Tennessee International Dyslexia Association International Dyslexia Association
5. Mayor's Council on Disability Issues, STOP School Push Out, Native American Advocate, Murdered Missing Indigenous Women) advocate, CAC Leadership, CAC East Tutoring Program Assistant
6. TN DIDD, ECF CHOICES

Interest Group: Children Experiencing Homelessness

1. Foster Care

Interest Group: Children Experiencing Homelessness

1. Bridge Refugee Services
2. Knoxville Internationals Network

Interest Group: Students who are Incarcerated

1. Central High Foundation, Justice Knox
2. Justice Knox
3. Justice Knox
4. Justice Knox
5. Justice Knox
6. Justice Knox
7. Justice Knox
8. Justice Knox
9. Justice Knox
10. Justice Knox
11. Justice Knox
12. Justice Knox
13. Justice Knox
14. Justice Knox
15. Justice Knox
16. Justice Knox
17. Justice Knox
18. Justice Knox
19. Justice Knox
20. Justice Knox
21. Justice Knox
22. Justice Knox
23. Justice Knox
24. Justice Knox
25. Justice Knox
26. Justice Knox
27. Justice Knox
28. Justice Knox
29. Justice Knox
30. Justice Knox
31. Justice Knox
32. Justice Knox
33. Justice Knox
34. Justice Knox
35. Justice Knox
36. Justice Knox, BBBS
37. Justice Knox, First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville
38. Justice Knox, Retired elementary teacher, Parent of former Knox County students
39. Justice Knox, SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), community member/taxpayer who cares about children
40. Justice Knox Education Committee member
41. Justice Knox member, Knox County resident, parent of a former KCS student
42. Justice Knox, Knoxville Area IPL, East Tennessee EarthRise, StopSchool PushOut, Justice Knox, Knox County Education Coalition
43. The University of TN Professor Emeritus, Justice Knox, Team member of First Presbyterian Church

Interest Group: Underserved Students

1. BCJ, Sleeves4Needs, Alliance House Coalition, BWBCA
2. Black Coffee Justice & Sleeves4Needs
3. Big Brothers Big Sisters of East TN
4. Children's Defense Fund
5. DCS
6. DCS
7. DCS
8. Freedom from Religion Foundation, Southern Poverty Law Center
9. Highlander Center
10. Junior Achievement of East Tennessee
11. Junior Achievement of East Tennessee
12. Junior Achievement of East Tennessee
13. Junior Achievement of East Tennessee
14. Junior Achievement of East Tennessee
15. Justice Knox, SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), community member/tax payer who cares about children
16. Knoxville Area Urban League
17. League of Women Voters, NAACP, Stop School Pushout
18. Mayor's Council On Disability Issues, STOP School Push Out, Native American Advocate, Murdered Missing Indigenous Women advocate, CAC Leadership, CAC East Tutoring Program Assistant
19. Stop School Push Out
20. Stop School Push Out, Justice Knox, Knox County Education Coalition
21. Thrive Lonsdale, Thrive Parkridge
22. United Way of Greater Knoxville
23. United Way of Loudon County