

Section: Narratives - Needs Assessment

Introduction

The findings of a recent study showed that there is a significant benefit to students who participate in out-of-school-time (OST) programs. In fact, the [Return on Investment of Afterschool Programs in Pennsylvania](#) study determined that for every dollar invested in after-school programming for students there was a return of \$6.69 in potential benefits to students, including reduced rates for drop-outs, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, crime and delinquency ([Link to PSAYDN.org](#)).

In accordance with the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act and Pennsylvania Act 24 of 2021 (Act 24), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will award approximately \$50,000,000 or one percent (1%) of Pennsylvania's ARP Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) State Reserve funds to support school districts, charter schools and cyber charter schools (collectively, LEAs) in the development and implementation of comprehensive after-school programs to address learning loss in response to the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of students and subgroups of students impacted by COVID-19 public health emergency that supplement school programs and activities.

Act 24 requires that, when available, existing personnel shall be utilized by school districts, charter schools and cyber charter schools to staff programs and activities established with these grant funds.

Within 90 days of receipt of these allocations, school districts, charter schools and cyber charter schools must submit a three-part plan to PDE, that outlines the proposed use of the grant money, itemized by program and activity. This plan is part of a consolidated application that includes after-school programming, summer programming, and a comprehensive plan to address learning loss. The plan shall include:

- 1) A description of each program and activity
- 2) A narrative outlining the expected benefit of each program and activity
- 3) A budget for each program and activity detailing personnel and operating costs

PDE has developed the Accelerated Learning Toolkit, a significant cadre of resources and trainings, to support LEAs in the development of their plans. The Accelerated Learning Toolkit can be found [Link to Accelerated Learning Toolkit](#).

Needs Assessment: In this section, LEAs are asked to describe the impact of the pandemic on their students, examine disproportionate impacts on specific student groups, and highlight the LEA's promising practices in supporting students' needs since March 2020.

Indicators of Impact

1. Describe how the LEA identified students for inclusion in after-school programming. Include a brief description of the indicators used in the decision-making process.

All students are welcome to participate in Freire Charter School's (FCS) after school programming. Clubs such as Robotics, Gaming, and Theater, give students a safe and fun space to spend their after school hours. However, students who are struggling with classes are strongly encouraged to attend one of our targeted support centers, such as Math, Writing, and Science or take advantage of our after school tutoring program. These students are identified by teacher observation, test results, and attendance.

Section: Narratives - After-school Program

After-school Program Questions: In this section, LEAs are asked to describe the activities they have designed to provide after- school programming for their students.

2. Identify the target student-group for the summer school program. Will the focus be on academic growth, social and emotional wellness, or some other factor to support student growth? For each group, provide specific strategies that were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts.

Student Group	Area of Focus	Number of Students Served	Provide specific strategies that were used or will be used to identify and measure impacts
Children with Disabilities	Academic Growth	60	Keystone test results Star Benchmark results Student Surveys Teacher Observations
Gender	Academic Growth	110	Keystone test results Star Benchmark results Student Surveys Teacher Observations

3. Describe the evidence-based resources that will be used to support student growth during the after- school program.

FCS's after school program is an extension of its student engagement strategy. It provides students with a fun and safe extension to their school day. Spaces such as the art club, theater, and anime give students a social and creative outlet. Book clubs, robotics, and gaming clubs are additional opportunities for academic enrichment. Prior to COVID, FCS's goal for the academic centers were to create a welcoming environment for students to get the academic support they need. However since returning to in person learning, the after school centers have been key in addressing learning loss. There are targeted subjects, such as math, reading, and science, and there is general academic support. These are run by FCS's dedicated teachers and a handful of students who have proven themselves in the subject area. Students learn differently and some prefer to utilize peer to peer tutoring. Student tutors are paid an hourly stipend and gain leadership skills by leading these study sessions. Students who are shy may prefer this option to group tutoring with a teacher. The goal is to give all students access to academic support that best suits their needs.

4. Describe the staff that will provide the after- school program (i.e., Internal staff or outside resources).

Number of Staff Members	Internal/Outside Provider	Role
25	Internal	Staff running clubs and academic support centers
5	Internal	Students paid a stipend for peer to peer tutoring



a. The LEA assures it understands it is responsible to offer the work to its internal employees prior to engaging outside entities.



b. The LEA assures it understands it is responsible to ensure that all after-school program staff hold the appropriate certifications for the program that is being delivered.

5. How will the LEA assess the success of the after-school program? Please identify the tool, frequency of use, and expected results.

Tool Used to Evaluate Success	Frequency of Use	Expected Results
Star Benchmark tests	3 times a year	Incremental, but steady increase of test scores
Student Survey	Fall and Spring	Students respond with an increase in self reported engagement and belonging
Attendance	Daily	Increasing attendance levels as evidence of student engagement

6. How will the LEA engage families in the after-school program?

Academic advisors do extensive outreach to families of students who are struggling academically or exhibiting attendance issues. They use a variety of communication tools including email, phone calls, and letters to discuss the student's progress to date and to connect the student/family to the resources and supports the student needs to be successful. FCS also includes information about after school programs in communications that are shared with all parents, for example in a weekly newsletter. Parents are able to track their child's progress via our Student Information System parent and student portals.

Section: Budget - Instruction Expenditures

Instruction Expenditures

Budget

\$78,552.00

Allocation

\$78,552.00

Budget Over(Under) Allocation

\$0.00

Budget Overview

Function	Object	Amount	Description
1000 - Instruction	100 - Salaries	\$10,000.00	After School Program Director for the Middle School
1000 - Instruction	100 - Salaries	\$25,000.00	After School Club Advisors for the High School
1000 - Instruction	100 - Salaries	\$25,000.00	After School Club Advisors for the Middle school
1000 - Instruction	200 - Benefits	\$1,913.00	7.65% of Payroll Taxes for the High School
1000 - Instruction	200 - Benefits	\$2,677.00	7.65% of Payroll Taxes for the Middle School
1000 - Instruction	200 - Benefits	\$1,250.00	5% of Retirement Costs for High School
1000 - Instruction	200 - Benefits	\$1,750.00	5% of Retirement Costs for Middle School
			Fashion/Design Fees

Function	Object	Amount	Description
1000 - Instruction	600 - Supplies	\$2,500.00	for High School Students
1000 - Instruction	600 - Supplies	\$5,000.00	After School Supples for High School Students
1000 - Instruction	600 - Supplies	\$3,462.00	After School Supples for Middle School Students
		\$78,552.00	

Section: Budget - Support and Non-Instructional Expenditures

Support and Non-Instructional Expenditures

Budget

\$78,552.00

Allocation

\$78,552.00

Budget Over(Under) Allocation

\$0.00

Budget Overview

Function	Object	Amount	Description
		\$	
		\$0.00	

Section: Budget - Budget Summary
BUDGET SUMMARY

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
1000 Instruction	\$60,000.00	\$7,590.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,962.00	\$0.00	\$78,552.00
1100 REGULAR PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1200 SPECIAL PROGRAMS – ELEMENTARY / SECONDARY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1300 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1400 Other Instructional Programs – Elementary / Secondary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1600 * ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1700 Higher Education Programs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1800 Pre-K	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2000 SUPPORT SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2100 SUPPORT SERVICES – STUDENTS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2200 Staff Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
Services								
2300 SUPPORT SERVICES – ADMINISTRATION	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2400 Health Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2500 Business Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2600 Operation and Maintenance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2700 Student Transportation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2800 Central Support Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3000 OPERATION OF NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3100 Food Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3200 Student Activities	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3300 Community Services	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4000 FACILITIES ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT SERVICES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

	100 Salaries	200 Benefits	300 Purchased Professional and Technical Services	400 Purchased Property Services	500 Other Purchased Services	600 Supplies 800 Dues and Fees	700 Property	Totals
	\$60,000.00	\$7,590.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,962.00	\$0.00	\$78,552.00
Approved Indirect Cost/Operational Rate: 0.0000								\$0.00
Final								\$78,552.00