



West Buffalo Charter School is seeking input from our stakeholders regarding how best to use the Federal American Rescue Plan (“ARP”) funds. This funding is being provided to help us address the immediate consequences of the last 16 months, while at the same time building longer-term capacity to benefit the children and families of WBCS into the future.

**West Buffalo Charter School’s expectations for prioritizing and maximizing these federal funds:**

1. Safely returning students to in-person instruction;
2. Maximizing in-person instructional time;
3. Safely operating schools and meeting the needs of students, families and staff;
4. Purchasing of educational technology for in-person and (potential) virtual instruction;
5. Addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all students, including low-income students, students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and students experiencing homelessness;
6. Implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health and academic needs;
7. Offering evidence-based summer, after school, and other extended learning enrichment programs;
8. Other areas of student performance and need.

## **Our plans:**

### **Teacher Professional Development and Training**

West Buffalo Charter School understands that effective professional development enables educators to develop the knowledge and skills they need to address students' academic and social emotional needs.

Professional development will focus on recertifying all staff in Culturally Responsive Teaching; incorporating Trauma Informed Care; and providing evidence-based strategies and resources to ensure students are making adequate progress toward literacy and numeracy acquisition.

**Connections:** 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8

### **Expand After School Academic, Extra-Curricular, Intramural and Out-of-School Activities**

Athletics and extracurricular activities play a critical part in the lives of students. We will expand academic support for students after school, this will include homework assistance and both intervention and enrichment opportunities. We will create a menu of clubs/options available for students to participate in at all levels, that encourage creativity, build confidence, and lead to stronger connections between students, peers and the school. We will also expand our partnerships with community organizations such as Cradle Beach to allow students to learn in alternative settings (80 acres of woods and beach), allowing students respite and support on weekends and school breaks which could include counseling and social emotional programs specific to our students' needs. This may also include broadening our community partnerships with local organizations such as Massachusetts Avenue Project (MAP) and other community resources whose missions align with those of WBCS.

**Connections:** 5, 6, 7

### **Increase Mental Health Staff**

The COVID-19 pandemic caused students and families to face emotional and social challenges due to the loss of socialization and support services. West Buffalo Charter School will increase our current mental health staff by increasing the Social Emotional Learning Team at WBCS to include an additional Social Worker, along with a full time Social Emotional Learning Teacher. School social workers are trained mental health professionals who assist students and families with mental health and behavioral concerns, provide positive behavioral supports, along with academic and classroom support.

**Connections:** 3, 5, 6, 8

### **Increase Academic Intervention Staff**

WBCS plans to increase our academic intervention staff by adding an additional Literacy Interventionist, as well as Content Support Teachers for grades 5-8 in both ELA and Math. The academic intervention staff provide direct services to students, using evidence-based practices to identify and support skill deficits. We will also increase our

special education and English as a New Language staff to insure that our most academic at-risk students are supported equitably.

**Connections:** 3, 5, 6, 8

## **Broaden Our Music Program**

WBCS will expand the music program to include an elementary school music teacher allowing for more instrumental instruction and future drama and musical productions. This will be done in consultation with the afterschool program. This may also include broadening our partnerships with community organizations such as Buffalo String Works and Young Audiences. This will include improving our current performance area located in our gymnasium to allow for more musical and artistic performances.

## **Public Feedback**

Written comments and feedback can be submitted by any stakeholder (Parents, Students, Staff or Community) via the [ARP Feedback Form](#)