

CHIPPEWA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Chippewa Learning Gaps Plan

The Chippewa Local School District is working to fill learning gaps created by the COVID-19 lockdown, developing a two-step plan to help students get back up to speed. Gaps in learning have unfortunately been something all school districts have dealt with for a long time. Chippewa consistently looks at all the testing data along with data from our teachers. Our goal is to accelerate the learning of students to get all students prepared as College or Career ready individuals.

The number of students learning remotely steadily decreased throughout the 2020-2021 school year. While that helped some students, a good number still fell behind — but all of the students were impacted by the pandemic.

Teachers in all subjects and grades believe their students were impacted last year. As a district, we need to take extra precautions with state-tested subjects.

TWO STEPS to ACCELERATE THE LEARNING

To fill in the gap created by COVID-19, the district put together a plan. Stakeholders, teachers, parents, administrators and students work collectively to accelerate the learning of students.

Step 1 started this summer when students, who were identified as behind grade level,” had extended learning instruction. We provided a vigorous and strategic curriculum for those students. Roughly 100 students attended summer classes.

The Second Step will taking place this fall with strategic courses and teaching staff added to focus on areas that are identified as our largest gaps in student learning.

New to Chippewa Local Schools is the Chippewa Virtual Learning Academy. The Chippewa Virtual Learning Academy, as an option for eligible students. The curriculum, a licensed third-party learning platform, Acellus, will deliver the content. Mr. Rodriguez will be the administrator leading the academy and Ms. Shaffer will be the teacher monitoring students. The academy allows Chippewa to keep the state funds that would have left the district when a student goes to a private or charter school. The academy will be a long-term option and eligibility will be focused on what is best for the student.

PAYING FOR THESE STEPS.

The cost is being covered through COVID-19 relief, called ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds and local funds:

ESSER was established as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in March 2020. Federal Title money along with grants to purchase Chromebooks, hire extra staff and supplies. Chippewa uses ESSER Funds to cover areas that COVID-19 disrupted or affected. This includes hand sanitizer, and products, masks, cleaning products, after-school programs, substitute costs, Chromebooks and laptops, wireless service for students, technology assistance, food distribution products such as freezers, extra time for bus drivers due to alternative routes and schedules, summer school teachers and assistants, summer curriculum products, summer transportation wages, summer food service wages, other costs for summer school and creation of an online academy.

Chippewa Local Schools has expanded the Summer Reading Program, bought laptops, purchased cleaning supplies, and paid for professional development for teachers to increase their knowledge and instructional skills in virtual learning. Chippewa also increased Mental Health Counseling support through Anazoa to five days a week in Hazel Harvey Elementary and Chippewa Intermediate School. The purchase of new buses has allowed the district to create more routes and lessening the number of students on the bus. The school district also contributed to expanded food service distribution services and purchase of non-perishable products to assist families when they need to pick up meals from the school.

These are supplies, equipment, services and personnel costs thus far. District officials are engaging in internal meetings with input from teachers and support personnel with a goal of developing an effective plan for the use of ESSER APR funds.