

Brooklyn Charter School

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Plan

Introduction

In March 2021, President Biden signed into law the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (ARP). This groundbreaking legislation is designed to help individuals and institutions across our country address the impact of COVID-19 and the resultant disruptions in our schools, our workplaces, and our daily lives. Under the new law, **more than \$130 billion** in federal funds will be provided to help the nation's K-12 schools, including Charter Schools, return to in-person instruction and address the impact of the COVID-19 disruption on students' learning and social-emotional health. In New York, more than \$9 billion in ARP funds have been allocated to school districts and charter schools.

*Brooklyn Charter School has been awarded
\$641,011 in ARP funds,
along with \$285,213 in CARES ACT 2 (ESSER 2) funds.*

We will use these funds to support the re-implementation of in-person instruction, improve health and safety throughout our classrooms and school building, and strengthen our academic programs and social-emotional supports. We are grateful to our entire school community for their input as we developed our applications and plans for spending ARP and ESSER 2 funds.

Our School's American Rescue Plan: Federal legislation and federal and state agency guidance regarding the ARP, along with the 2021-22 New York State budget, require each local education agency (LEA)—including NYS Charter Schools—that receive funding under the ARP to post on its website a plan summarizing how these funds will be spent. The primary purpose of ARP funding is to help schools like ours overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 disruption and succeed in the upcoming school years. Our ARP plan must show how we will use these funds to

create, maintain and/or expand vetted and research-based programs, services, and resources, which improve the educational and social outcomes for our students. In addition, our ARP plan must be developed with input from our families, educators, and stakeholders. As described later, we have engaged stakeholders from across our school community to provide input into our plan.

The **Brooklyn Charter School’s ARP Plan** satisfies the legal requirements and summarizes how our school intends to invest these funds. The funds will aid in the improvement of the health and safety within our school community and provide additional academic programs and social-emotional supports for our students. Our ARP plan is designed to ensure that we use these federal dollars to address specific school needs in alignment with the objectives, requirements, and priorities of the ARP legislation and the 2021-22 NYS budget. Accordingly, our plan prioritizes spending on **non-recurring expenses** and **demonstrably sustainable recurring expenses** in the following ARP-allowable areas:

- ***Safely returning students to in-person instruction***—Brooklyn Charter School is committed to the health and safety of our entire school community during the upcoming school year. We have and will continue to work cooperatively with the NYC Department of Education (NYCDOE), New York State Education Department (NYSED), and NYC Test and Trace Corps to ensure we are compliant with their guidance and regulations. Brooklyn Charter School intends to invest ARP funds in purchasing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), hiring a part-time custodian assigned solely to our school, along with other measures to help us comply with relevant CDC, SED, and DOH guidelines. We also want to ensure our school is regularly sanitized to avoid the transmission of COVID-19 and to ease the fears of our school community. We will use funds for regular COVID

testing for non-vaccinated staff and students, as per the New York City Department of Education requirements.

- ***Maximizing in-person instruction time***—Brooklyn Charter School will return to our pre-COVID extended day schedule where we will maximize in-person instruction by providing a longer rigorous school schedule which will run from 8:30 - 4:00 daily. We have added intervention periods into our regular school schedule for both reading and math to address learning loss for all students. The incorporation of intervention periods allow both students enrolled in after-school tutoring and those who are not available to attend these sessions, the same opportunities at mitigating any learning loss. We have also included a science period and will be using a widely used research-based curriculum *Amplify Science*. Funds will be used to cover the cost of the curriculum materials for the reading and math intervention periods (Geodes; i-Ready; Eureka Math; Foundations; Just Words) and the new science program.
- ***Operating schools and meeting the needs of students***— ARP funds will be spent to support and improve school operations, including support for complying with COVID-19 safety requirements and protocols. When speaking with teachers we found that many wanted different desks so that they could socially distance their students properly and also have an environment that allowed for centers and socially distanced group work. We intend to use approximately 2% of our ARP funds to purchase new classroom furniture that will help provide high-quality instruction while complying with CDC guidance regarding social distancing.
- ***Purchasing educational technology***— we intend to use approximately 17% of our ARP allocation to purchase SmartBoards in our classrooms and to enhance them with related

software. By expanding our use of SmartBoards, we will be able to improve our use of Digital and Blended learning strategies in and outside of the classroom. This is especially important as teachers and students address the impact of the disrupted educational experience of the last 18 months and transition to a more consistently in-person post-pandemic learning experience. Teachers can use SmartBoards to support differentiation in teaching and to make academic content and lessons more engaging to students which, in turn, will support learning acceleration. These federal monies will also pay for teacher training on how to use SmartBoards. Furthermore, we plan to provide each student with an electronic device to use within the school building and at home. For instances where remote learning may be necessary, all of our students will be provided with headsets. Families without internet access will be provided with mobile hotspots.

- ***Addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on students, including the impacts of interrupted instruction and learning loss and the impacts on low-income students, students with disabilities (SWDs), English language learners (ELLs) and homeless students—*** Brooklyn Charter School will address the impact of COVID-19 on our entire school population which is predominantly eligible for free and reduced lunch. We will have a major emphasis on our SWD and ELL populations to ensure we can remediate as much learning loss as possible. We will be purchasing intervention programs and hiring instructional and academic intervention staff as well as para professionals. The hiring of this additional staff will help us to provide in-person academic support that meets each student's needs. We will use funds to pay teachers to host evening workshops for families to give them the tools necessary so that they can support their children's academic growth at home, and to strengthen school-family connections. BCS will invest a significant portion

of our ARP funding in expanding and supporting our instructional staff to provide targeted support to all students and, in particular, at-risk students. Many of our planned expenditures in this area will support salaries and stipends for educators. Our intention is to use ARP funds to help us bring on new hires and to reward and incentivize specialist educators and other instructional staff during the period of ARP funding. Following this period, we will continue these positions with funding from our general budget and/or other revenue sources (e.g., Title I). Our ARP investments in this area will include:

- 13% of our ARP allocation to support salaries for academic coaches who will work with teachers to strengthen instruction and interventions for at-risk students.
 - 36% of our ARP allocation to support salaries for Para Professionals who will support classroom teachers.
 - 11% of our ARP allocation to support the salary of an Academic Intervention Specialist.
 - Roughly 6% of our ARP allocation to purchase educational materials to support Guided Reading and phonics instruction.
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- ***Implementing evidence-based strategies to address students' social, emotional, mental health and academic needs***—We will use ARP funds to integrate evidence-based strategies to meet our students' social, emotional, and mental health needs into our overall curricula and programs. We will have a daily SEL period which our Social Worker will spearhead. We will use funds to purchase and implement a Restorative Justice Training program that will address how our staff will help mitigate social, emotional, and health needs that may have evolved due to the pandemic. The program will be specially catered to our school population. Our Deans and Social Worker will use the Restorative Justice Program to aid them in the development of a curriculum focused on helping our teachers and school staff create a program that supports the social and emotional growth and

development of our students and families. To support these efforts, we intend to use approximately 6% of our ARP allocation to develop and refine a curriculum to help teachers address the social, emotional and mental health needs of our students and to work more effectively with our counseling and student support staff.

- ***Offering evidence-based summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs***— We will use approximately 4% of ARP funds to support our after-school tutoring. The program will be based on student performance on i-Ready diagnostics. After-school tutoring groups will be tailor-made for each student and teachers will work with no more than five students at a time. We will use the funds for materials and salaries for the after-school staff. The after-school materials we will use are based on the curriculums we use during the normal school day (i-Ready reading and math with Eureka math supplements). We will engage our students in an intensive in-person academic instruction in summer school program during the Summer of 2022. The summer programming will be overseen and implemented by our school’s leadership and faculty. Our ARP fund investments will be coordinated with spending from other revenue sources, including our general budget and ESSER 2. Specifically, we will invest roughly 9% of our ARP allocation in in-person summer academic programming in our second year of ARP funding.

Elements of Brooklyn Charter School’s Plan

The **Brooklyn Charter School** ARP Plan shows how monies will be invested to support the school in each of the above-listed ARP-allowable areas. Our goal is to help our students and school community transition successfully from the COVID-19 disrupted educational experience to a consistent high-quality in-person educational experience in the school years to come. Specifically,

we are expending ARP funds to ensure the health and safety of our entire school community; support the academic growth and achievement of students; and promote our students' social emotional health and development. Our spending plan will be coordinated with spending of other federal and non-federal funds including per-pupil, Title I, CARES Act I, ESSER 2 and private grant funding, to maximize its impact and improve programs and outcomes for students.

We recognize that our Health and Safety Plan and School Reopening Plan will likely be revised to comply with new legislative and regulatory guidance in the next few months. We also recognize that protocols and guidance may change as information about COVID-19 and effective health and safety measures evolve. Accordingly, we will monitor the guidance provided by these agencies on an ongoing basis and make changes to our policies, practices and spending as we see fit.

Review and Evaluation of Effectiveness

Brooklyn Charter School will review this Plan every six months. The purpose of this review is to: a) ensure that it is implemented with fidelity; b) measure and document the impact of ARP fund spending; and c) modify the plan, as appropriate, to improve the quality and outcomes of the programs, services and resources supported by ARP funds. The review will be coordinated by the school's Leadership Team with approval of the Board of Trustees. The Plan will include input from teachers, parents, students and other school stakeholders. To this end, we will engage stakeholders through use of surveys, public meetings and other means. The results of each review—including changes in ARP-funded services and activities—will be posted on our website and shared with the school community.

