


# ESSER III

BOARD PRESENTATION  
American Rescue Plan-ARP  
Act

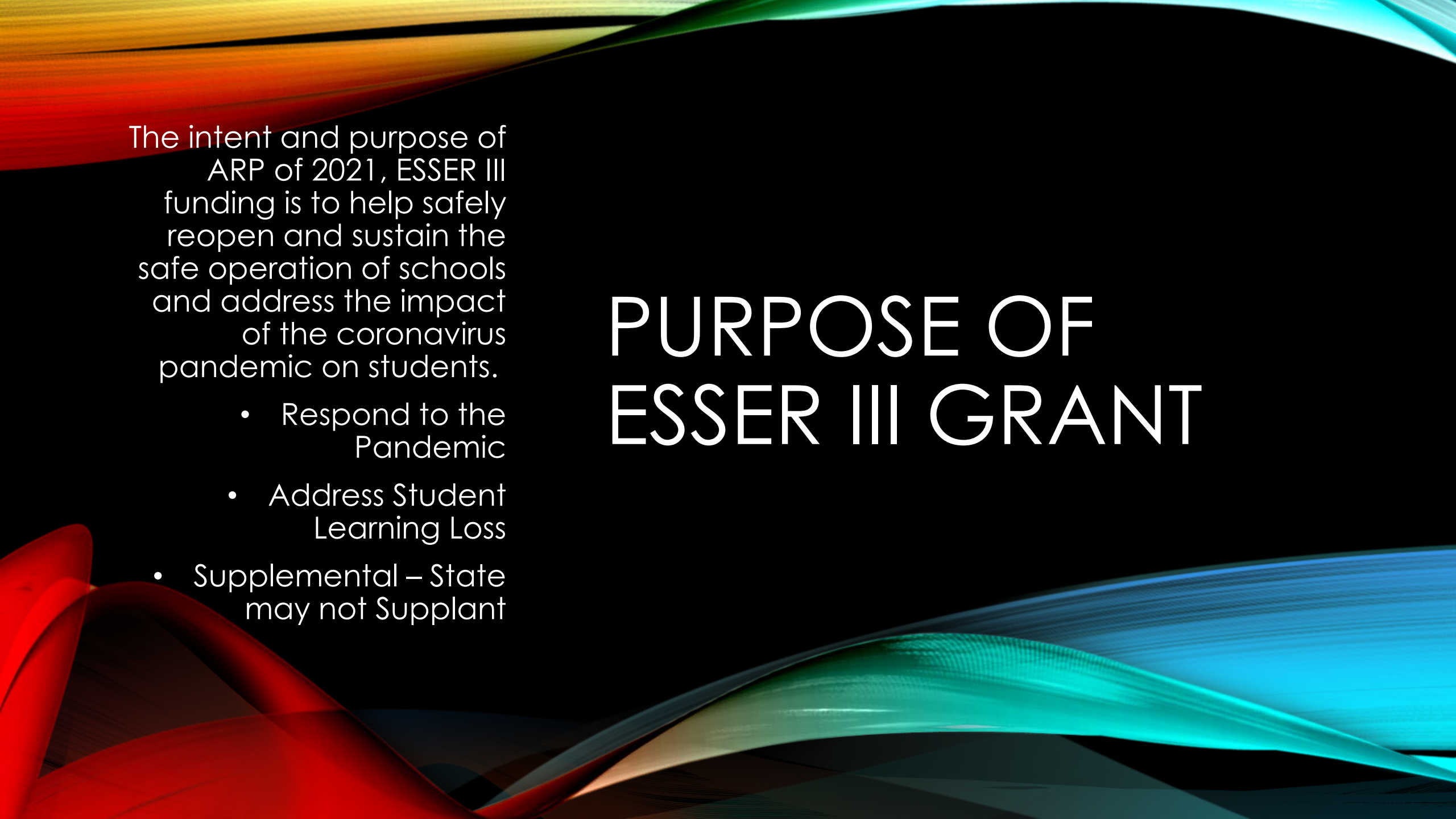
Elementary and Secondary  
School Emergency Relief  
(ESSER)





The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was enacted on March 27, 2020 and included Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds for K-12 schools. These ESSER grants will provide school districts with emergency relief funds to address the impact COVID-19 has had on elementary and secondary schools.

## WHAT IS ESSER?



The intent and purpose of  
ARP of 2021, ESSER III  
funding is to help safely  
reopen and sustain the  
safe operation of schools  
and address the impact  
of the coronavirus  
pandemic on students.

- Respond to the  
Pandemic
- Address Student  
Learning Loss
- Supplemental – State  
may not Supplant

# PURPOSE OF ESSER III GRANT

## TEA Program Requirements

1. THE LEA MUST DOCUMENT A PLAN FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF ESSER III GRANT FUNDS PER THE STATUTORILY ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES AND AN ESTIMATED TIMELINE OF THE PLANNED EXPENDITURES.
2. THE LEA MUST DOCUMENT HOW IT DETERMINED ITS NEEDS CAUSED BY COVID-19.
3. THE LEA MUST DOCUMENT HOW IT PRIORITIZED THE NEEDS IN DETERMINING ITS USE OF THE ESSER III GRANT FUNDS.

### **OTHER GUIDELINES**

PROVIDE PUBLIC NOTICE  
PROVIDE A LOCAL BOARD OVERVIEW OF GRANT  
ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS  
DATA COLLECTION FOR DOCUMENTATION AND CREATION OF PRELIMINARY PLANS  
SET UP A PROCESS FOR CONTINUATION OF MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION, REVISION AND EVALUATION  
POST 2 PLANS ON WEBSITE (30 DAYS AFTER LEA RECEIVES THE NOTIFICATION OF GRANT AWARD (NOGA)  
PLAN 1: USE OF FUNDS PLAN (LEA ARP ESSER PLAN)  
PLAN 2: LEA PLAN FOR SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

# PLAN 1 – USE OF FUNDS: FOUR REQUIRED DOMAINS

Four required domains:

**Health & Safety as related to COVID (CDC guidance)**

**20% set-aside to address the academic impact of lost instructional time.**

**LEA Expenditure Plan for Remainder of Funds**

**Interventions implemented will respond to academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of all students, and particularly those students disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.**

# PLAN 2 – SAFE RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

## Plan #2 - Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services



Texas schools starting point

Safe Reopening of  
Schools (procedure IF  
closure or transition to  
remote learning)

Respond to academic,  
social, emotion, and  
mental health

Continuity of Services

Evaluation of Plan &  
Meaningful Consultation

Accessible to all parents (parents of English Learners & parents with disabilities)

Translation implications

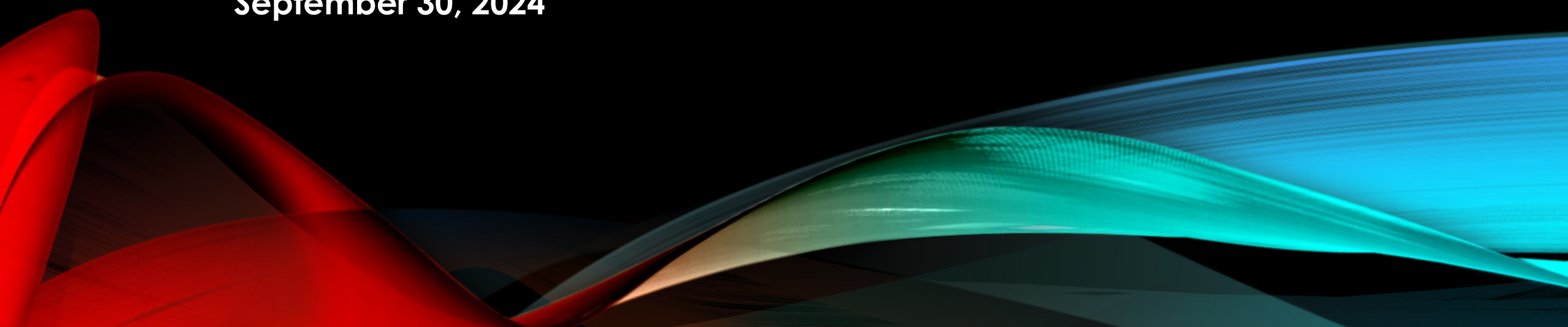
$\frac{2}{3}$  of ESSER III is Available  
Now

Remaining  $\frac{1}{3}$  of ESSER II  
will be available Fall 2021

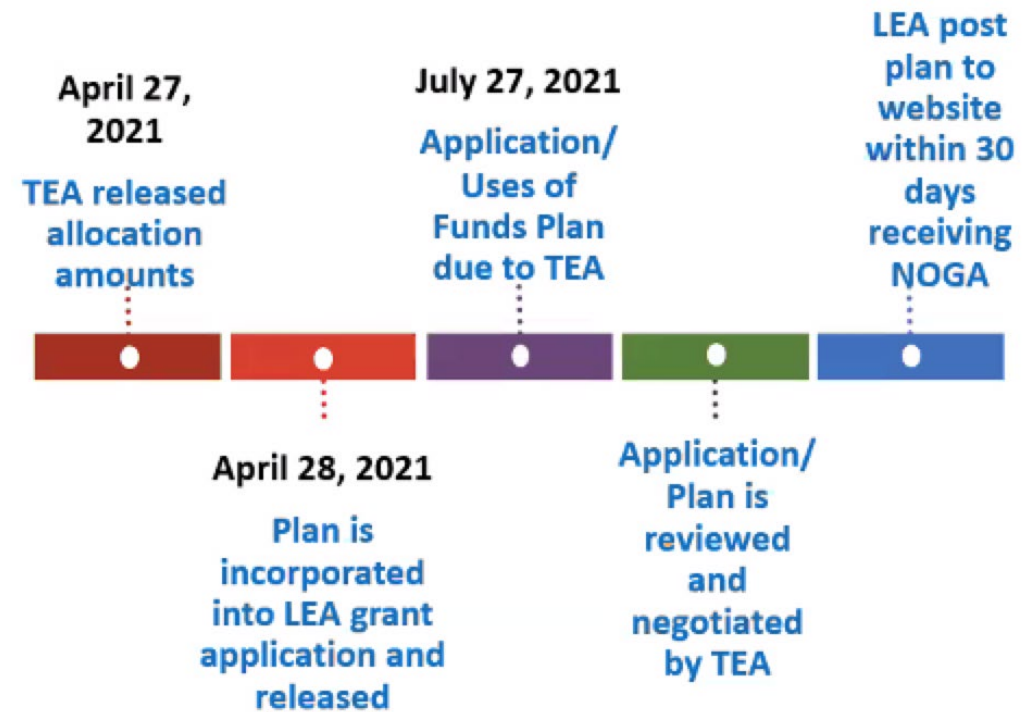
**\$1,051,278**

**Availability through  
March 13, 2020-  
September 30, 2024**

# UNIVERSAL ACADEMY ESSER III FUNDING



# TIME LINE



# ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS



## COVID Preparedness and Prevention

- Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of LEAs with State and local public health departments
- Improve efforts to prevent, and respond to coronavirus



## Special Populations Activities

Activities to address the unique needs:

- Low-Income Families
- Children with Disabilities
- English Learners
- Homeless/Foster Care



## Training and PD to Improve Response

- Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs;
- Training and professional development for staff of the LEA on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases

# ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS



## COVID Supplies & Sanitization

- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of an LEA
- Including buildings operated by such agency



## Long Term Closure Activities

- Students Technology for Online Learning
- Carrying out requirements under IDEA
- Ensure other educational services and supports can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements



## Educational Technology

- Purchasing educational technology (hardware, software, and connectivity) for students ... that aids in regular/substantive educational interaction between students and instructors,

# ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS



## Mental Health Supports

- Providing mental health services and supports
- Mental Health Supports through implementation of evidence based full-service community schools



## Summer Learning & Afterschool Program

- Providing classroom instruction or online learning during summer months
- Supplemental afterschool programs



## Learning Loss

- High Quality Assessments
- Implementing evidence-based activities
- Providing assistance to families
- Tracking Attendance and improving student engagement

# ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS



## Facility Repairs Reduce Virus Risk

- Enable operations of schools to reduce virus transmission
- Improvements to support student health needs



## Indoor Air Quality Improvements

- Mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems
- Filtering purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems
- Window and door repair and replacement



## Maintaining LEA Services

- Maintain the operation of and continuity of services in the LEA
- Continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA
- Field Trips

# UN-ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS



## Debt Service

- Debt Service (Lease-Purchase)



## Hosting Conferences

- Hosting Conferences
- Sponsoring Conferences



## Other

- Subsidizing executive salaries who are not employees of the LEA
- Bonuses, Merit Pay or similar, unless specifically related to disruptions or closures resulting from COVID-19

# REQUIRED STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

- Students
- Families
- Parents
- Administrators
- Teachers
- Principals
- Staff
- School Leaders
- Board Members

Universal Academy Survey Schedule

June 9-18, 2021

Survey sent through email and link posted on website

# DURING THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR, WE IDENTIFIED 3 FOCUS AREAS:



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL  
IMPACTS OF COVID-19



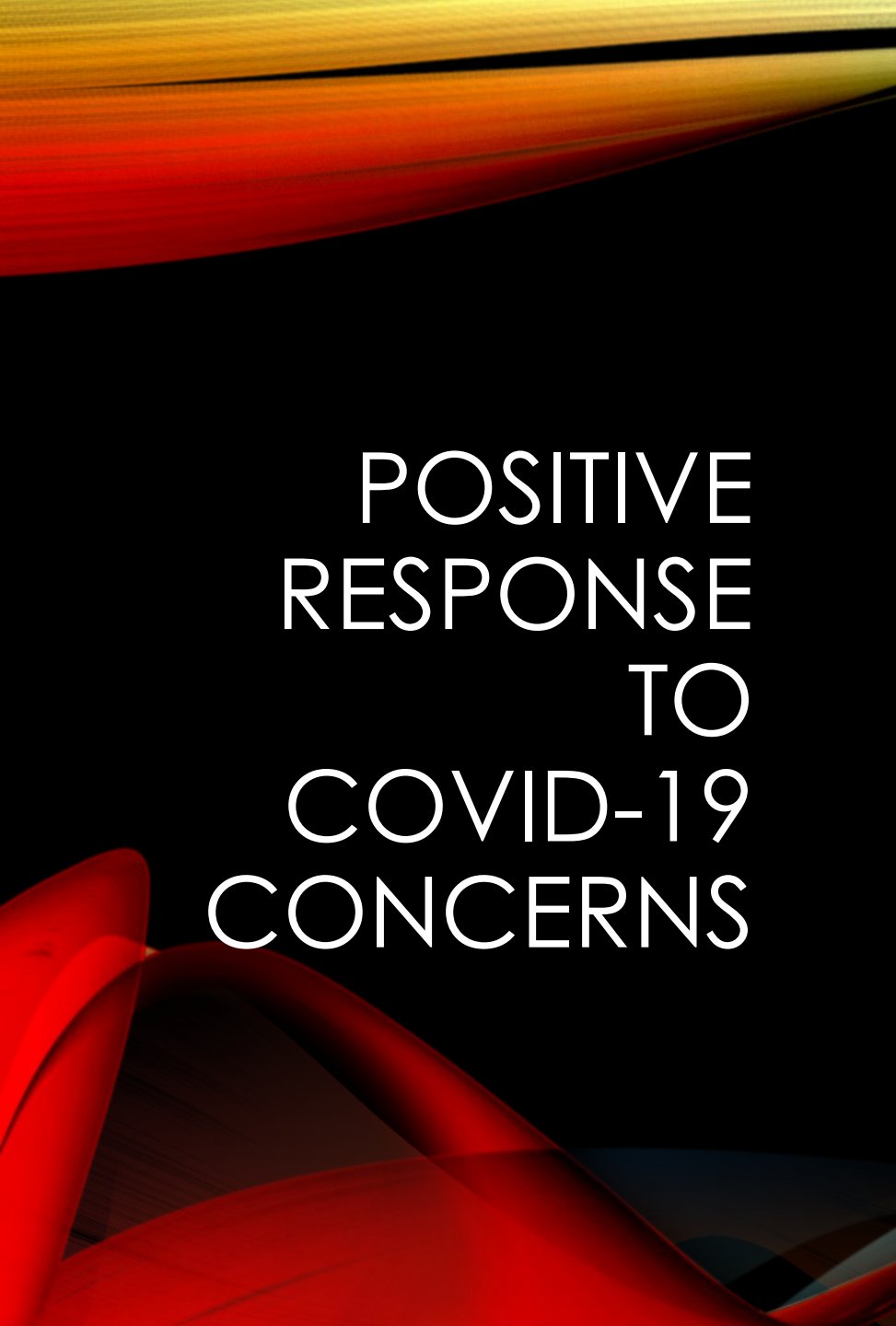
ACADEMIC IMPACTS OF  
COVID-19



HEALTH AND SAFETY  
IMPACTS OF COVID-19

# SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- \*SEL programming should work in tandem with, not in place of, our existing character education program.
- \*SEL support must be available to all students on a consistent basis.
- \*All staff members will be trained to implement program with fidelity.
- \*Ongoing monitoring of program is key.



# POSITIVE RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS

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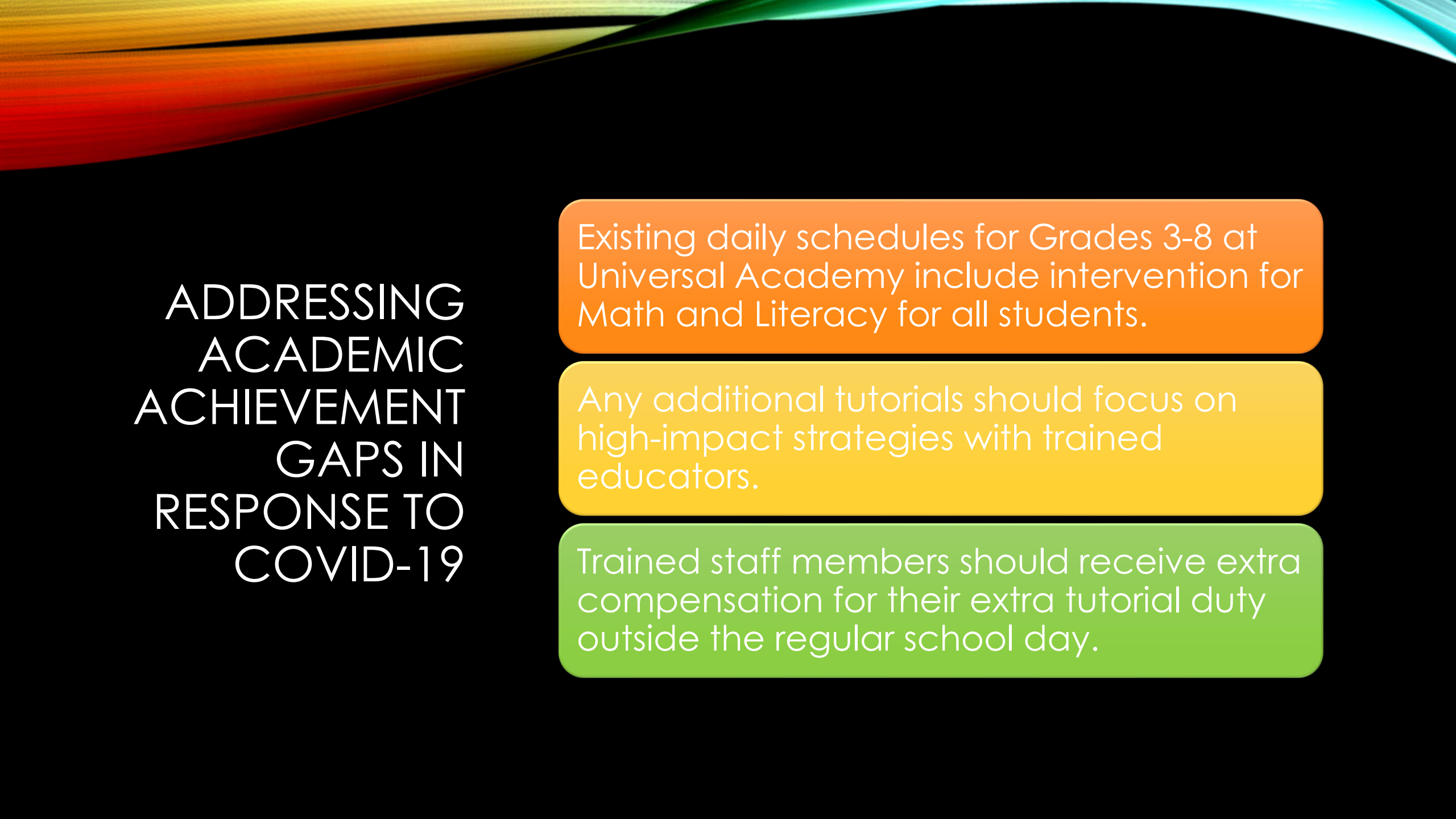
Daily intervention for all students has started to close the achievement gap for Math and Literacy; however, we need to add targeted small-group tutorials for high impact in 2021-2022.

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Our character education program and SEL efforts are helping students manage their emotions and make good choices; but we must implement Universal Academy SEL programming for ALL students.

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Our COVID-19 response protocols were effective. Free onsite COVID testing and sanitation protocol should continue for 2021-2022 school year.

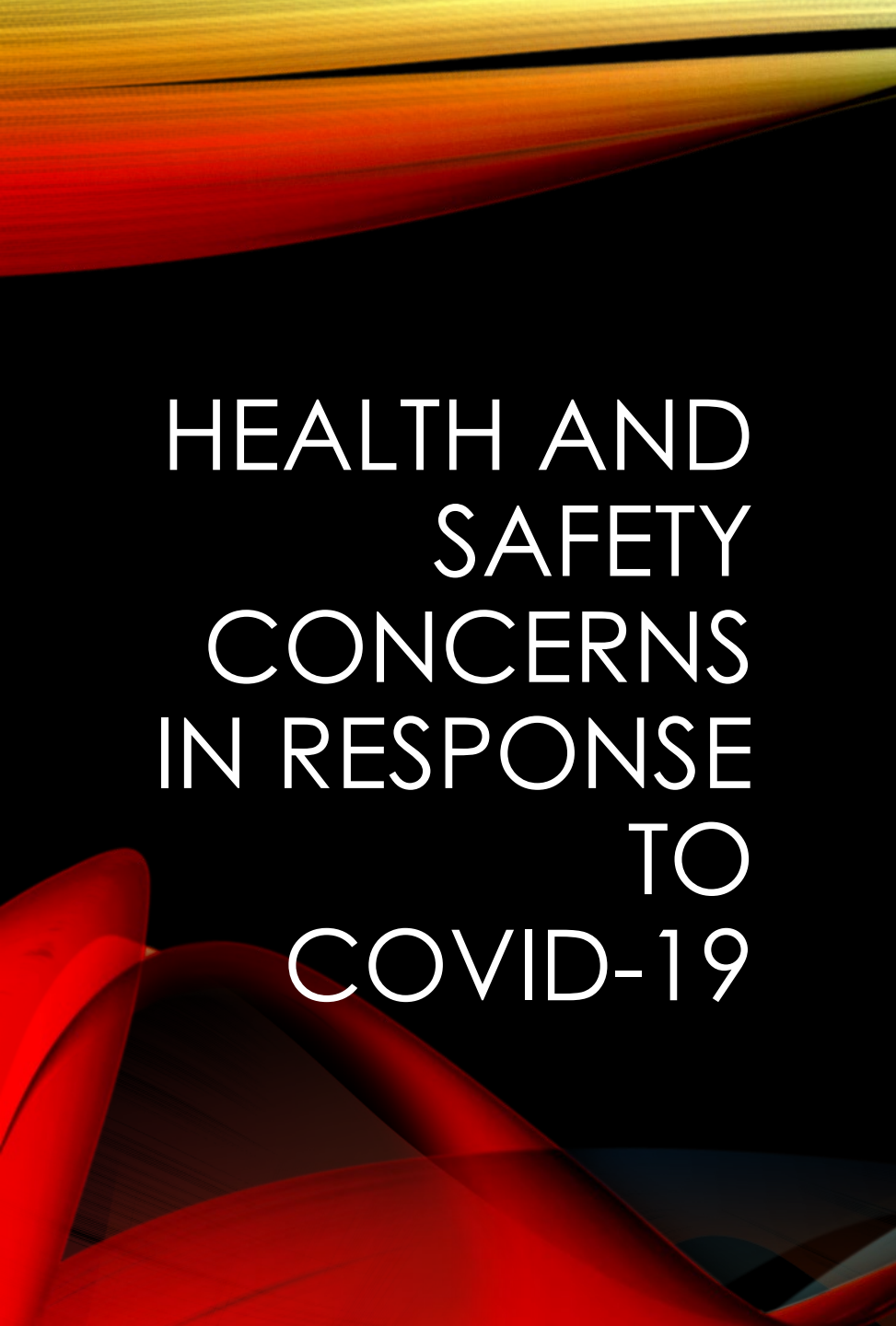


# ADDRESSING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT GAPS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Existing daily schedules for Grades 3-8 at Universal Academy include intervention for Math and Literacy for all students.

Any additional tutorials should focus on high-impact strategies with trained educators.

Trained staff members should receive extra compensation for their extra tutorial duty outside the regular school day.



# HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Universal Academy should continue offering free onsite COVID testing for staff and students.

Sanitation stations should remain on each campus.

Masks are optional but encouraged for all staff, students, and campus visitors.

Air quality and ventilation should improve on both campuses with the a/c unit replacements.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Finalize

Finalize our ESSER III plan to address areas of concern shown in surveys from staff, students, parents, and stakeholders.



Share

Share plan on website and host parent and community meetings.



Monitor

Monitor plan annually and revise as needed through end of grant cycle.