

American Rescue Plan / Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) – IU13 Spending Plan Notification

** Spanish translation and downloadable PDF coming soon
** Próximamente traducción al español y PDF descargable

Lancaster-Lebanon IU13 applied for and received \$2,154,115.00 in American Rescue Plan / Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funding from the PA Department of Education. 100% of this funding will be used to replace the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system at IU13's Central Education Center (CEC). The CEC is located at 111 South Penn St, Manheim PA 17545; until 2020, the building was called Burgard Elementary when it was owned by Manheim Central School District.

The CEC is where IU13 runs many direct-service special education programs, including Preschool Early Intervention, Multiple Disabilities, Autistic Support, and Emotional Support. Across all programs, there are 180 students ages 3-21 and over 150 total staff who occupy the building. 100% of our students in CEC have at least one diagnosed disability, and most of those students either have medical exemptions from wearing face masks due to their disability, or struggle to wear masks consistently due to their disability.

Prior to IU13's occupancy of the building, it had no central air conditioning system; there was no way to filter the inside air, and fresh air could only enter through open windows (which is both inefficient and a security risk). Given the medical needs of the students in the building, and the ongoing risk of COVID-19 in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties, IU13 saw no choice but to replace/upgrade the HVAC system at CEC to provide the cleanest, safest air it could for our students.

The plan to upgrade the HVAC system at CEC aligns to IU13's 5-year Strategic Plan, which was developed throughout the 2020-21 school year with input from IU13 staff, administrators, board members, parents, and community partners, and was finalized and approved 10/13/2021. IU13 leadership presented this ARP ESSER spending plan to the public before submitting the funding application: the plan was shared with the IU13 Board of Directors and the IU13 Superintendents' group on 11/10/2021, and additional feedback was collected during three 30-minute virtual meetings in December 2021.

The HVAC upgrade work is being completed by Shannon A. Smith, Inc., of Myerstown PA, who was chosen through a competitive bid process. As of August 10, 2022, IU13 anticipates the work will be completed by September 2, 2022. Once the HVAC replacement is complete, the upgraded system will provide better air filtration and will be able to completely replace each classroom's air with fresh/outside air up to four times per hour, dramatically improving ventilation inside the building. Ultimately, this upgrade will not only protect students, but also staff, family members, siblings who attend neighboring school districts, and the general community.