

**Selected Comments from the ARP ESSER State Plan Template 30-day Comment Period  
6.14.21**

Category	Comment	County
<b>Technical Correction</b>		
	P.23 PSUs were required to post their ESSER II plans for a minimum 30-day comment period. I believe this should read ESSER III.	Surry
<b>Support</b>		
	I wholly support the efforts that you have outlined above, and appreciate how you are working to incorporate the lessons learned over the last 18 months in integrating technology into the classrooms, while also addressing the inequality of access amongst the student population.	
<b>Question</b>		
	I would like to know how these funds are going to be directed in support of our students and staff.	
<b>Rejection of Funding</b>		
	Control of the schools must remain in the hands of local communities. The federal government does not have the best interest of our children at heart, Please reject this funding!	Lincoln

	stop this spending use the money more local schools	Brunswick
<b>3rd Party Vendor Solicitation</b>		
	<p>New Classrooms appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction ARP/ESSER plan.</p> <p>We are a national nonprofit on a mission to personalize education to support and advocate for policies that truly enable schools to meet each student’s unique strengths and needs and provide an equitable environment for every student. Our organization is actively engaged in building capacity for innovative learning models, supporting demand, and creating some space for new approaches to teaching and learning that ultimately yield better results for students.</p> <p>We strongly encourage the inclusion of Innovation Zones among the recommended programs to address unfinished learning, as the state of Texas has done and several other states are now proposing as part of their ARP plans (for an example, see page 39 of North Dakota’s plan - <a href="https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/Covid-19/ESSER%20III/ARPESSERStatePlanFINAL.pdf">https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/Covid-19/ESSER%20III/ARPESSERStatePlanFINAL.pdf</a>). Innovation Zones provide a state framework to solve unfinished learning by ensuring all students master college and career ready standards, but not through a uniform, grade level-structure. Districts and schools who are accepted into the innovation zone are incentivized to focus on comprehensive learning growth for multiple years across a grade span—instead of the traditional approach of states centering only on a summative assessment of grade-level performance in order for students to accelerate their learning to ultimately master grade level standards.</p> <p>Within an Innovation Zone model, the state is responsible for facilitating connections between schools and providers, and building a stronger system that requires all parties to</p>	

	<p>demonstrate sustained, positive results as students master the standards over time. These Zones allow states to develop a unique approach to reimagine school while introducing new mechanisms for personalization and shared accountability for results. In addition to reviewing our summary on Innovations Zones (<a href="https://newclassrooms.org/wp-content/uploads/Math-Innovation-Zones-ESSER-and-ARP.pdf">https://newclassrooms.org/wp-content/uploads/Math-Innovation-Zones-ESSER-and-ARP.pdf</a>), we encourage you to see how the Texas Education Agency put Math Innovation Zones into practice (<a href="https://tea.texas.gov/academics/learning-support-and-programs/math-innovation-zones">https://tea.texas.gov/academics/learning-support-and-programs/math-innovation-zones</a>).</p> <p>Thank you for the consideration of our feedback and hope to be a resource to you on this topic as you finalize your ARP plan and prepare for the upcoming school year.</p>	
	<p>This is a request for funding for every school in Buncombe County to have hardwired technology in the classrooms OR student use only of computers and electronic devices only in a designated, hardwired room.</p> <p>It is commonly believed that wireless technology is a welcome advancement. No one likes wires. However, when you look closely at the science, as parents and educators responsible for the safety of vulnerable children, we are compelled to reconsider.</p> <p>Many say that they follow the guidelines of the FCC regarding wireless technology in schools. The fact is that the FCC "safety" standards do not include children (test were done on full-grown man-sized rubber dummy), do not include a prolonged amount of time (more than 30 minutes), the standards are over 30 years old ( the FCC is currently being sued to update them) and do not include multiple wireless devices in one room or routers. So, therefore, unfortunately, any school technology director or teacher that follows FCC guidelines is actually NOT following guidelines with our children's safety in mind. The fact is that there are over 8000 studies ( <a href="http://www.EHTrust.org">www.EHTrust.org</a> and <a href="http://Bioinitiative.org">Bioinitiative.org</a>) showing harm to animals and thousands of more papers showing harm to humans and children who are consistently exposed to wireless radiation. One study showed damage to brain cells after only 1 hour of exposure to wireless</p>	<p>Buncombe</p>

radiation per day for one month. International studies show an up to 200% increase in cancer, especially in children within 1500 feet of a cell tower. Radio Frequency and Telecom industry experts will often say that the cell tower "emits as much power as a cell phone." What does that say about the exposure and risks to our children having cell phones, iPads, or laptops on for hours a day at school? In another study, after 18 weeks of two daily sessions of 3 hours of exposure to male rats, "the majority of their sperm were dead." Clearly, we would rather our "Digital Revolution" not become a "Mass Sterilization" realizing this ten years from now...and wishing we had made different choices this summer.

Every minute our children are exposed to wireless microwave radiation puts them at higher risk of learning and behavioral disorders, weakened immune systems, cancer, and reproductive damage.

Please watch this wireless exposure lecture by an expert, Dr. Devra Davis, who focuses on the impact of wireless frequency exposure on children on [www.EHTrust.org](http://www.EHTrust.org) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BwyDCHf5iCY>.

The solution? Have children turn their cell phones OFF on school premises at all times, use laptops and iPads only in the hardwired computer centers, OR only for 5 minutes at a time to log their work in classrooms, OR hardwire the classroom technology with ethernet cables to eliminate dangerous wireless microwave radiation exposure.

We hardwired our home for about \$60. Cat 7 ethernet cables and adapters can easily be purchased online. Although technology directors will think it preposterous to hardwire classrooms, and teachers may find it challenging to limit electronic device-learning to a designated computer room, the fact is that the science shows the risks are too great to our children to do anything other than making a concerted effort to keep them safe.

The TechSafeSchools program <https://www.techsafeschools.org/> has medical, legal, and technical support for schools nationwide to get hardwired and provide a safe learning environment. Many schools are making electronic-device-free learning a priority, we hope

	<p>Buncombe County will prioritize funding for hardwired learning at all our schools!</p> <p>Please let us know if you have any questions or require further data.</p>	
<b>Social Emotional Learning</b>		
	I do not support my tax dollars going to train teachers social emotional learning	New Hanover
	I do not support receiving or spending funds for “social and emotional learning” for the following reasons. Our children are not proficient in math, reading, and science according to their test results why would we focus on their social and emotional state when clearly their academic state is in peril. I do not approve of my tax dollars being spent on a program that has zero measurable benefits and seeks to segregate and also invade the privacy of students. Last but not least, why would we spend money on a theological program when our school buildings are dilapidated and our classrooms are over crowded and have out dated equipment, why are my tax dollars not being spent to install HVAC units that are capable of preventing the spread of COVID, why are my tax dollars not being spent to build more classrooms and upgrade existing classrooms and equipment? We know children benefit from being in school yet we’re not doing everything we can to make school a safer more up to date place for our children and teachers.	Craven
	I have been a public school educator for 17 years. I've seen the decline in educational vigor as we move away from actually teaching our students how to think to analyzing their feelings constantly. Our standards have fallen away from the "how-to" of learning to the "what-to". My students have become increasing afraid of expressing opinions or emotions due to how they might be perceived. Teachers don't need training to further this gap. We don't need invasive surveys about mental health. That is not the realm of the school and certainly not how I want my tax dollars spent.	Orange

<b>General Comments</b>		
	The confusion of indoctrination should not be combined in any way with basic education. I think we can see that over the years trying to do so has ruined the quality of the education we once had. Back to basics, stop trying raise others children and just teach them the reading (history), writing (English) and the maths that will help them.	Harnett
	<p>“Education” is heading in a dangerous direction, which is to say our children are either 1) not being educated traditionally to understand the basic tenets of reading, writing and math, et al— nor are they being properly schooled on the evolution of history and society because politics have superseded and/or infiltrated all aspects of thought and learning, or 2) being actively encouraged to disregard what is taught in the home as educators, on behalf of the state’s agenda, attempt to overtake the moral and ethical compasses of children, parents and families as units. Teachers are teachers of their given disciplines; they are not psychologists, just as none of the people empowered to write or promote curriculum are psychologists.</p> <p>Attendance at school is mandated by law, and as such, the presence of our children in schools does not validate an approach that entitles teachers and administrators to subjectively interpret educational topics, assert their personal politics and beliefs, or dismiss traditional subject matter entirely.</p> <p>It matters not how “progressive” our society has become; school hours must remain dedicated to straightforward instruction. Academic hours are not opportunities for psychiatric evaluation and intervention.</p> <p>Children go to school to be educated on literal subject matter; they do not to go to school to undergo therapy sessions.</p> <p>It’s time the state and the nation remembers the role of academia, and the difference between the public and personal lives.</p>	Pitt
	It is outrageous - this plan for using billions of dollars to “safely reopen schools” and additionally adding “cultural teaching”. NC schools are declining drastically because the students are not being taught the basics of math, reading and writing and true factual history without an intentional political slant. Children can “safely” go back to school right now - unmasked and no social distancing and absolutely no vaccine. And they should be allowed to go	Wake

	back without the concern of being taught white privilege or any other type of racist teaching. Enough. You know what is right now have the courage to do it.	
<b>Critical Race Theory</b>		
	I object to the use of federal funds for teacher training on critical race theory. Use the money to help kids catch up last year's loss of school time - teach them to think, don't tell them what to think!	Moore
	Stop CRT. It creates and supports racism, it seeks to destroy families, it is a policy akin to child abuse. Any official supporting this will lose support of the voting public.	
	STOP!! CRT should not be taught to our children, in that, you are instructing our children racist wrongful thinking in doing so. There was not a race problem until the Democrats started pushing and brainwashing Americans in to thinking there was. The dumbing down of our education system has been in play for crap such as this.	New Hanover
	I am opposed to the public school system incorporating CRT, Culturally relevant programs and using any form of SEL with our students.	Wake
	Stop The Funding Of culturally relevant Training for teachers!!! Culturally relevant means socialistic Marxist indoctrination and We as citizens of NC won't stand for it! Protect our children!!!	Davidson

	<p>I do not want my tax dollars trying to re-teach the teachers hatred and division and to then teach that to our children I THINK NOT!!! I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE SEL PROGRAM OR THE CRT PROGRAM. I DO NOT AGREE WITH THE MANIPULATION OF THE AIG PROGRAM AND I'M FED UP WITH ALL THIS SPENDING ON NON-SENSE THAT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW DO NOT SUPPORT ONE BIT!! I SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER AN ALTERNATIVE TO THIS IT IS NOT WHAT I WANT MY CHILDREN TAUGHT PERIOD. THE WASTEFULNESS OF OUR TAX DOLLARS IS NOT UNSEEN NOW! WE ARE AWAKE AND PAYING ATTENTION!!!</p>	<p>Alamance</p>
	<p>I do NOT support my tax dollars going to train teachers about critical race theory/social emotional learning. I have researched extensively about this and do not feel like this curriculum has any place in a public school setting, or ANY school setting.</p>	<p>New Hanover</p>
	<p>CRT is a politically motivated movement based on lies and committed to causing division and chaos in our schools and communities. This indoctrination will drive a wedge in any efforts to promote unity among our diverse and specially unique and gifted citizens. The effort should be focused on teaching similarities of being, purpose, opportunities and challenges. CRT will result in strife and promote hate .... not a wholesome or desired result for our citizens or nation. Can't we make our schools a political-free zone and leave all the social justice commentary to private and personal time? What happened to reading, writing and arithmetic?</p>	<p>Henderson</p>