



Anderson Public School

2195 Anderson Road
Sand Springs, OK 74063
(918) 245-0289

www.andersontrojans.org

The U.S. Department of Education, and
The Oklahoma State Department of Education

September 27, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

The unprecedented and unforeseeable phenomena known as the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic has had deadly and lasting impacts worldwide. Nationally it has been the cause of over one million deaths and billions of dollars in lost revenue. At our local level it has decimated our small school system.

I do not use the word “decimated” lightly. In response to the threat of student & faculty life and well-being, our school was completely closed when the world-wide outbreak occurred. The situation was closely monitored, and by the time it was deemed safe for return to in-person learning, the damage was done.

Our school depends on State monies for the funding of teacher salaries. Without state funds—we simply cannot hold school. In July of this year our school received the devastating news that due to the result of the school closing (as a response to the Covid-19 impacts on our district), the State of Oklahoma would be cutting our funding for the year by 50%.

Our normal state funding is about one million dollars (1,000,000.00). This year the State of Oklahoma will only be providing our district **half** that amount, at five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000). With the average teacher salary being roughly \$50,000.00 the math quickly yields a loss of funding for ten teachers—and our teaching staff only consists of twenty teachers for this small district.

The bottom line is that we **literally would have ZERO funding for HALF of our teaching staff**. Half of our teachers would have their employment terminated, our school would close, and students would be left standing in the cold, without a school and without an education.

The facts are simple:

- **A precipitous loss of funding has decimated our school as a result of the Covid-19 world-wide pandemic**
- **Over half of our teaching staff remains unfunded**
- **Our school will be forced to close its doors, as we cannot afford to operate business in any meaningful way**

- In order to keep the doors open, and **provide continuity of service to our students**, we will be supplementing our regular operating budget with ESSER and ARP funding as a one-time expenditure
- These funds will be used for regular recurring expenditures in order to mitigate the disruption of educational services for our students.
- The only way to provide continuity of services for our students is to use program monies to provide for the regular expenditures of teacher salaries and benefits for school year 2022-2023
- This is the **ONLY** way that we can keep our doors open
- This is the **ONLY** way our students can receive educational services this year.
- This is a one-time fiscal maneuver that is necessary **ONLY** because of the direct effect of our loss of State funding on the current school year due to Covid having shut down our school in a previous year. (Due to a peculiarity in the Oklahoma school laws, the financial burden of the school closing is a delayed effect.)

In the supplemental documents section of this application I have uploaded state documents which show the regular funding for the previous year (\$1,015,457.75) and the precipitous decline in local funding for the current year (\$502,010.66). This is a loss of 50.56% of our funding. I am therefore utilizing ESSER and ARP funds in a one-time expenditure to retain continuity of service for our students.

Respectfully submitted,

Tod Williams,
Superintendent, Anderson Public Schools