

# **EASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

11479 U.S. HIGHWAY 62

WINCHESTER, OHIO 45697

Phone (937) 695-6275

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Jordan R. Michael – Superintendent

Kevin Kendall - Treasurer

5-26-23

Parents/Guardians:

As communicated via Final Forms on February 3rd, and as you have likely seen in the “Weekly Warrior” newsletter and in the Brown County Press, the Eastern Local School District is excited about upcoming projects in the district! The ELSD is excited to share that these projects will be funded with federal grant dollars and no additional local tax dollars. The federal government has issued three rounds of relief funding to Ohio school districts in response to the coronavirus pandemic, which many school districts, including the ELSD, consider to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address the health and safety of district students. The most recent round—created by the American Rescue Plan and referred to as ESSER III or ARP ESSER—is the largest round so far and made \$4.5 billion available to Ohio school districts. The ELSD has selected DS2 architects for the project based on their statement of qualifications.

The main focus for Russellville Elementary will include adding space for mental health services and other health related services. Adding these new spaces will require a renovated front entrance to Russellville Elementary. Fortunately, this will create a more secure entrance to the school building and create a safer environment for students and staff. The project will include additional parking in the front of the building and additional sidewalks for ingress and egress. The most significant project will take place at Russellville Elementary. There are plans for a potential project taking place at Sardinia Elementary; however, Russellville Elementary remains the priority at this time. We will review the scope of the potential Sardinia project based on cost estimates.

In summary, ARP ESSER funds have provided school districts with a unique opportunity to address some of their existing facilities’ needs to enhance the health and safety of district students. The ELSD is excited to take advantage of the availability of federal grant dollars to fund these projects.

Reminder about the building project website update page. All of this information and more can be found on the website. The website will continue to be updated throughout the process.

<https://www.elsd.us/BuildingProject.aspx>

The ELSD Board of Education has received the final plans for the RES project as well as the spec book for the bidding process. The board approved plans at the May BOE meeting for the RES project. Advertisements for the bidding process are now going out and the process will begin for accepting a bid and getting a contract in place.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lowell S. Richey · Adam W. Bolender · Deborah L. Forsythe · Edmund McVey · Kristi Kress Wilhelmy

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## Current scope of the project and priorities:

- Secured entrance for RES to address student/staff safety
- Developing additional space for mental health counseling/other school-based health/services at both RES/SES (RES to be completed first, with hopes of an SES project beginning toward the end of the RES project)
- Russellville remains the priority at this time. We will review the scope of the potential Sardinia project based on cost estimates.

More specific information will be shared with RES parents prior to the start of the 23-24 school year that will contain pertinent information in relation to the project and day to day operations, as construction will inevitably take place during the school year. The safety of students, staff, and community will be the top priority as we make plans for having school during a project.

Sincerely,



Jordan Michael  
Eastern Local School District  
Superintendent

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