



Allendale Public Schools 2022-2023 Section 98c Learning Loss Plan

Section 98c funds are available to local education agencies through Public Act (PA) 144 of 2022 (MCL 388.1698c) which was signed into law on July 14, 2022, by Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Section 98c appropriates federal funding to address learning loss as part of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund and part of the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II Fund. By October 10, 2022, at a public meeting of the Allendale Public Schools Board of Education, a presentation will be provided on how funding received under section 98c will be used to address learning loss. A brief description of the Learning Loss Plan is explained below:

Learning loss has hit our elementary schools especially hard during the pandemic. We feel that by creating small class sizes, we can mitigate student learning loss. At the early-childhood level, we plan on using some of the Section 98c funds to pay for an additional kindergarten teacher. By creating an additional section at this grade level, there will only be 23 students in each homeroom. We feel this will have an immediate impact on teaching and learning and the students will benefit academically during the school year. By having fewer students per teacher, a stronger student/teacher relationship will be formed. Additionally, teacher and parent communications will become stronger. Research shows that students perform better academically when they are in a trusting and caring environment (Baker, J. A. (2006). Contributions of teacher-child relationships to positive school adjustment during elementary school. *Journal of School Psychology*).

To support our fourth through eighth-grade students, data reviews are held quarterly to review benchmark assessments and progress monitoring data. By using i-Ready as a part of our comprehensive assessment system, we are using research-based practices to improve student proficiency due to learning loss. i-Ready research meets the criteria for "evidence-based" as defined by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), qualifying these programs for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and School Improvement funding

Starting in January 2023, first through fifth-grade students who are two or more grade levels below proficiency in English Language Arts will be invited to participate in after-school intervention sessions. Each student will receive two hours of Tier III instruction in target reading areas by a highly qualified and trained reading specialist. Teachers will progress monitored weekly using assessments and reports from i-Ready. In addition, books at appropriate grade levels will be purchased for students to strengthen their skills at home in partnership with their parents and guardians.

Metrics used to assess the impact on learning loss include

- i-Ready Benchmark and Progressing Monitoring Data (K-8)
- Local Assessments