

The Covid-19 pandemic has forever impacted our students and staff that have endured the last 16 months of discord. Our daily lives have been thrown into disarray, our school days (when we had them) were modified, and students were forced to learn, live, and flourish under the most unique conditions. Over the course of the 20/21 school year (and beyond), as our students were forced to learn from home from part/full days, it became apparent that the lack of socialization; the lack of consistent supervision; the lack of supports our schools generally provide our families was beginning to take a toll on our students. Increased incidents of depression, stress, substance abuse, mental health crises, as well as apathy toward learning began inundating our schools and staffs. Fortunately, our district has always placed a high priority in ensuring we have several School Counselors and licensed Social workers in our schools to help our kids and their families overcome the day to day challenges of being a student in school. The pandemic only exacerbated these needs, which is why we directed these ESSER funds to support they great work that our counselors do in our buildings. We won't get out of this pandemic educationally unless our kids feel safe and secure in the school environment--our counselors are necessary to create this environment in all of our schools.