

SPOTLIGHT ON

Goshen Local Schools

**FUTURE
FORWARD
OHIO** 



In this interview, Superintendent **Darrell Edwards** of Goshen Local Schools discusses how his district used Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding to increase student engagement and close the learning loss gap caused by the pandemic with additional staff and programs.

Q: What was the concern when you returned to in-person learning?

Our biggest question was transitioning back to in-person learning after so long away. Everything changed so quickly. **As soon as we returned to the building we knew immediately we needed more support for these students.**

Q: How did you use the ESSER funding?

We used the ESSER funding to hire additional staff. A math intervention specialist, reading instructors for our elementary school, all-subject tutors for our sixth- through 12th-graders. We also implemented a summer intervention program, as well as a credit recovery programs for our high school students. We even have two service dogs from a local organization that are here full time. They're here for everyone, roaming the halls making everyone happier.



Q: How have the specialists made an impact on learning?

They're incredible. We're closing the gap. I know it's going to take time. But I also know the ESSER funding made a huge difference. We didn't have these specialists here before COVID. Now that we do, it's made such a great change. **I see these students recovering. They're succeeding academically and thriving socially again.**

Q: So the results are promising?

Oh absolutely. These students are succeeding. It's a great feeling. We adopted these changes a lot faster than I think we normally would have. We've made great progress. **Test scores have gone up, we're closer to pre-pandemic status.** Of course we always wonder how long it will take to fully close these gaps, but we're confident we can do it.

