

**Remarks of Cathy Hosek on ESSER III Spending
on behalf of the Education Committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
November 3, 2022—Fairfax County School Board Meeting**

My name is Cathy Hosek, and I am a member of the Education Committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Tonight I am speaking on behalf of the Federation's Education Committee.

We would like to begin our remarks by thanking FCPS for holding this hearing, and to recognize the work of your grant administrators such as Ms. Evangeline Petrich for engaging in community outreach. By coming together, we not only ensure that spending reflects our community's values but, just as important, we sharpen our ideas through continual honest exchange.

To date, a great deal of ESSER spending has proceeded in a decentralized fashion, with decisions and communications about those decisions operating school by school. This approach holds significant advantages, as it permits each school to operate as a creative laboratory of its own, attempting innovative solutions to see what works for a particular community.

We are concerned, however, that the valuable data from these experiments is not being properly gathered, analyzed, and communicated to the public in a centralized fashion. The programs created through ESSER to date provide a treasure trove of information which can help us ensure that we are only implementing evidence-based practices and thus spending our money wisely. Schools need direct comparisons to understand which ideas performed above the scatterplot line, and analysis to understand why. As we engage in interventions that promise to help students with both learning loss and emotional wellness, we must ensure funds are spent not just with good intention but with strong positive effect. This analysis will become crucial as FCPS decides which new practices are important to sustain absent ESSER funding.

Thank you for your time this evening, and for all the time you spend on various school matters.