

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARPA) FEDERAL FUNDING



INVESTMENT STRATEGY

In Spring 2021, the School District of Philadelphia was awarded **\$1.1 billion** in ARPA federal funding. These funds are meant to be used for:



Safely reopening and sustaining in-person learning



Addressing students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs resulting from the pandemic



Maintaining operations and delivery of services

Guiding Principles

The SDP is following federal guidance and best practices research to inform its investment of APRA funds. In addition to meeting federal requirements, the SDP's investments are aligned with the Board of Education's Goals and Guardrails, from fostering safe, welcoming, and healthy school environments to ensuring equitable access to engaging learning opportunities. The allocations of ARPA funds will support the District's efforts to meet these Goals and Guardrails set forth by the Board to improve outcomes for every student.

Community Engagement

To further inform spending of the ARPA federal funds, the District reached out to community members for input through surveys and focus groups in April 2021. The findings are aligned with the District's priorities reflected by the Goals and Guardrails.

The survey received over

11,700
RESPONSES

The results highlighted three areas of focus:

- ✓ Student Learning Recovery
- ✓ Facilities Investments
- ✓ Student Social and Emotional Needs

The focus groups were conducted in multiple languages to ensure that family, staff, student, and other stakeholder voices were heard. The results were very similar to the survey. There was added focus on ELL supports and equitably distributing funds.

The strategy for investing this money is based on a continuous feedback loop that adapts and improves over the years. Change can come from new educational needs, new funding opportunities, new public feedback, and new information on what is working well and what could be better.

Focus Areas for Spending

Our investment strategy reflects four key areas of focus:

FOCUS AREA ONE: Support Educational Recovery and Accelerate Learning.	FOCUS AREA TWO: Dramatically Expand Facilities Improvements to Provide Safe, Healthy, and Modernized Schools.	FOCUS AREA THREE: Support the Significant Social and Emotional Needs of Our Students.	FOCUS AREA FOUR: More Supports in Schools to Help All Learners and Educators Succeed Going Forward.
\$350M	\$325M	\$150M	Additional funding
Focused on programs to support learning recovery, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced summer learning programs • After-school programs • Before-school programs 	To support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving facilities across the District • Enhancing the safety of school and district buildings 	To support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased social services at schools • Trauma response initiatives • Increased counselor support 	To support student success, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum development • Information technology equipment and services • Investments to address Goals and Guardrails

2021-2022 Investments

Focus Area 1: Support Education Recovery and Accelerate Learning through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional positions for schools based on principal discretion • Bonus and recruitment retention for staff • Before and after school programming • Eliminate 'leveling down' or movement of teachers based on reduced actual enrollment for all schools • Enhanced summer learning programs • Additional supports for special education students • Adaptive learning interventions • Universal screener assessments • Supports for COVID response, including vaccine clinics and contract tracing 	Focus Area 2: Dramatically Expand Facilities Improvements to provide Safe, Healthy and Modernized Schools through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), air purifiers, and barriers to support student health related to COVID-19 • Supplemental cleaning support • Maintenance and environmental projects to improve school buildings • Replacement of school buildings with 21st century learning environments 	Focus Area 3: Support the Significant Social and Emotional Needs of Our Students through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased counselor support • Initiatives for schools in communities most impacted by gun violence • Climate support services, including peer mentoring, healing together, and social work support 	Focus Area 4: More Supports in Schools to Help All Learners and Educators Success Going Forward through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information technology, including new equipment and technical support • Culturally relevant curriculum and supporting textbooks
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