

July 2021 Superintendent Report Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small



Strategic Plan Priorities 20-23

Engage



Provide high-quality learning experiences

Implement student-centered learning to improve academic success for all and to close the achievement gap of our students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and Black, Latino and English language learners.

Establish a uniform, clear and transparent procedure for curriculum development and implementation.

Use data purposefully and collaboratively to drive decisions and to improve student outcomes

Lift up



Ensure an inclusive, caring and safe learning environment

Use restorative practices to promote inclusiveness, relationship-building and problem-solving.

Deliver trauma-informed practices through a culturally responsive lens to provide a safe, positive learning environment.

Establish training norms for cultural responsiveness, antiracism, diversity and inclusion.

Collaborate



Build strong community

Create non-traditional, innovative opportunities for family engagement.

Partner with businesses, higher education and other community organizations.

Lead



Foster dynamic leadership

Manage school and district resources effectively.

Develop leaders at the school and district levels to achieve each school's targeted outcomes.

Highlight and communicate the great accomplishments in our schools and district.

Build high-performing teams to drive implementation of our strategic priorities.



Federal Relief Funds Recap



CRRSA is the focus of tonight's update.

Round 1

CARES

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act - Summer 2020

\$~23.4M

Round 2

CRRSA

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act - Winter 2021

\$~87.5M

- **Planning completed**
- **Incorporates stakeholder feedback**

Round 3

ARP

American Rescue Plan Act - Spring 2021

\$~197M



Stakeholder Feedback

Throughout May and June of 2021

- Numerous opportunities to engage District students, families, staff, and the community in providing feedback about how best to use relief funding
- Received nearly 600 forms of stakeholder feedback



Public Forums & Meetings: **12**



Written Correspondence: **4**



Online Form Submissions: **80**



Feedback Through-Lines



Culturally Responsive and Informed

- Emphasis on the need for culturally responsive curricula, instructional resources, and programs
- Provide support to families and create parent and student engagement programs



High-Quality Learning Experiences

- Focus on social-emotional learning, restorative practices, and mental health
- Provide students with additional academic and social-emotional supports
- Provide additional support for English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities
- Incorporate community-based and experiential learning opportunities for students
- Increase the number of counselors and social workers, sports, arts, clubs, and extracurricular activities
- Reduce class size



Feedback Through-Lines



Diverse Programming

- Provide increased options for Career and Technical Education (CTE), world language courses, sports offerings, and other diverse programs that provide pathways to educational success and life readiness
- Guarantee that diverse programming will be offered equitably to all students in all District schools



Expanded Learning

- Support for and expansion of traditional expanded learning initiatives such as after-school and summer enrichment programs
- Inclusion of new and innovative opportunities such as learning labs, school-break programming, wrap-around services, and targeted academic support



Feedback Through-Lines



High-Quality Staff

- Recruitment and retention of a diverse staff that reflect the cultural and linguistically diverse population of students
- Professional development for District staff in the following areas: cultural responsiveness; diversity, equity, and inclusion; antibias and antiracist practices; social-emotional learning; restorative practices; best practices in Reading and Math
- Ensure all RCSD employees are high-quality staff members

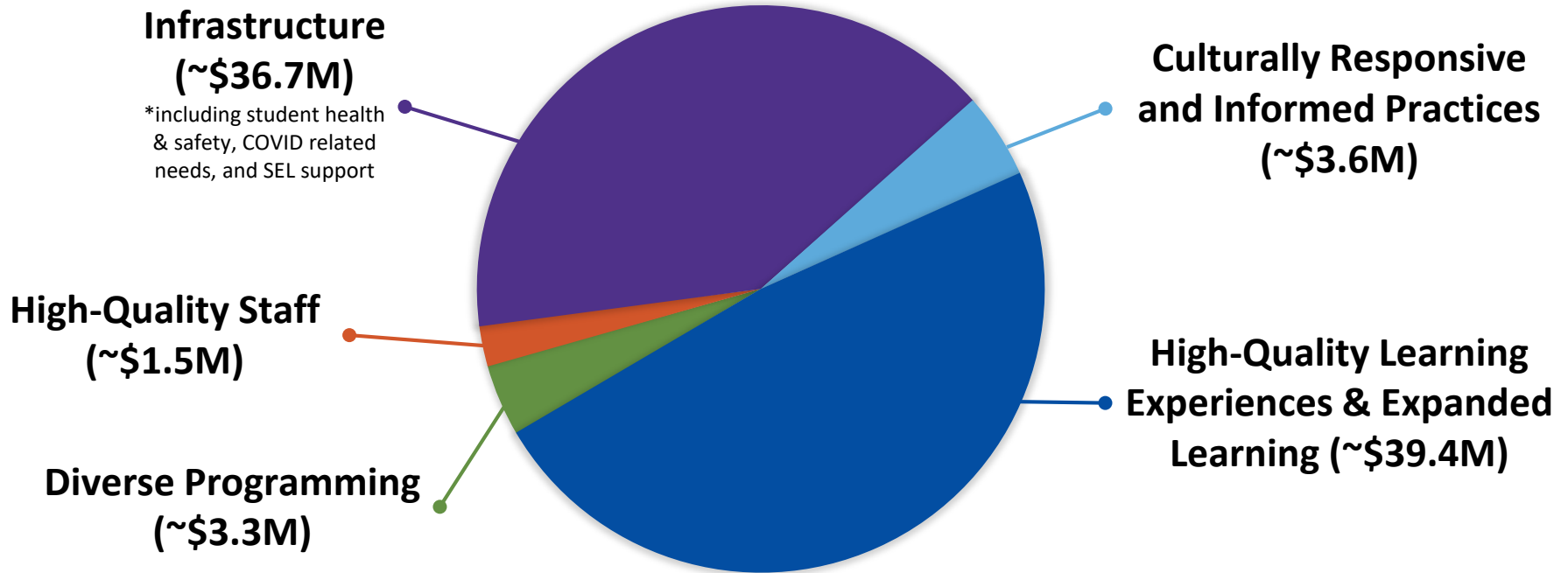


Cross-Topical Suggestions

- The desire for transparency in District practices around the usage of funds
- Improving the quality of student meals
- Incorporating parent and student voice in decision-making processes



Round 2: CRRSA





Determining Priorities

For each potential initiative, the document provides a brief description and outlines:

- Intended outcomes for the initiative
- How it is aligned to existing District improvement planning
- A brief reference to the research-base for the proposed initiative
- The connection to stakeholder feedback



Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act
The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), was signed into law on December 27, 2020 and provides an additional \$54.3 billion to elementary and secondary schools across the nation. The Rochester City School District has been allocated over \$87 million in CRRSA funding. Taking into account student need, stakeholder feedback, and existing improvement planning processes, the District has prioritized the initiatives outlined below to be a part of our CRRSA funding allocation.

District-Wide Infrastructure Improvements (~\$14M)
To meet student, staff, and family needs, the District will engage in a number of foundational District-Wide Infrastructure improvements including:

- Digitization of student records
- Communications Enhancements: Social Media, advertising campaigns, website revisions, mobile media labs
- Department of Law: Improved contracting software
- Enhancements to Information Management and Technology: HelpDesk staffing,
- services/accessories for staff/students, and Print Shop, Network Operations, and Student Information Services updates.
- Improved transportation routing software
- Upgrades to professional development space
- Continuation of feasibility study for the District's Managed Choice Policy

Intended Outcomes

- Improve operational effectiveness with modernized communication systems.
- Improved levels of cybersecurity for district applications and services
- Increased capacity to process legal contracts and documents.
- Improved and more convenient access to student records.

Alignment to District Improvement Planning
Recommendations from State Monitor Academic Plan Culture Shift Domain #:

- 2: Expand website (for cultural competency, equity, etc.)

District Priorities:

- 4. Lead: Foster dynamic leadership
- 4.1. Manage school and district resources effectively

Research-Base
Districts generally do not see districtwide improvements in teaching and learning without substantial engagement by their central offices in helping all schools build their capacity for improvement ([Center for the Study of Teaching and Policy](#) 2010).

Connection to Stakeholder Feedback
High-Quality Staff

- Ensure all RCSD employees are high-quality staff-members

Culturally Responsive and Informed

- Provide support to families and create parent and student engagement programs

*This initiative includes 7.0 FTEs.



Monitoring and Evaluation

Establish Stimulus Fund Program Office

- Project Management
- Coordination of evaluation efforts across departments to determine return on investment (external evaluator)

Establish cadence for reporting on accomplishments and ROI with community and stakeholders

- Routine reports to the Board of Education
- Establish committee of stakeholders
- Creation of website to report out on transparency

Questions?
Comments?
Feedback?

