

# **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Federal Funding Community Engagement Conversations**

Garrett Landry, Steady State Impact Strategies  
RUSD District Leadership



**Steady State  
Impact Strategies**

# Agenda

Agenda item	Time allocation
<b>Introduction and Objectives</b>	<b>10 minutes</b>
- <b>Good Things:</b> Group Exercise	3 minutes
- <b>Workshop Objectives and Guidelines:</b> Garrett Landry	7 minutes
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# Let's set the tone

**Good things**



# Meeting Objectives

**Our goals for the day**

Understand with clarity, **previously made district ESSER funding recommendations** and rationale;

**Inform RUSD leadership through community-based prioritization activity** on district resources, initiatives and programs to inform outstanding ESSER district funding decisions;

**Identify clear next steps** and utilization of community funding priorities

# Norms for our time together

- ✓ Challenge the status quo
- ✓ Approach this conversation with “Yes, and...”
- ✓ Do not dominate the conversation, all voices must be heard
- ✓ Keep conversations focused on today’s objective, we have a parking lot for out-of-scope ideas
- ✓ Remember, we are doing this for our students educators, and the greater Racine community - keep them in mind throughout the meeting and exercises



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# Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) Overview

## Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (CARES) Act

**ESSER I Allocation:** \$4,896,135

Available through September 2022

## Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act

**ESSER II Preliminary Allocation:**

\$23,636,060

Available through September 2023

## American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

**ESSER III Preliminary Allocation:**

Tentatively \$53,080,097

Available through September 2024

## Allowable Costs

- Preparedness and response to COVID-19
- Outreach and services to special populations
- Addressing long-term closures
- Education technology
- Mental health supports
- Addressing afterschool & summer activities
- Continued staff employment
- Assessing and addressing learning loss
- Safely reopening schools
- Minimum of 20% to mitigate learning loss

# Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) Overview

## ESSER Funding for Racine Unified:

ESSER II \$23,636,060 + ESSER III \$53,080,097

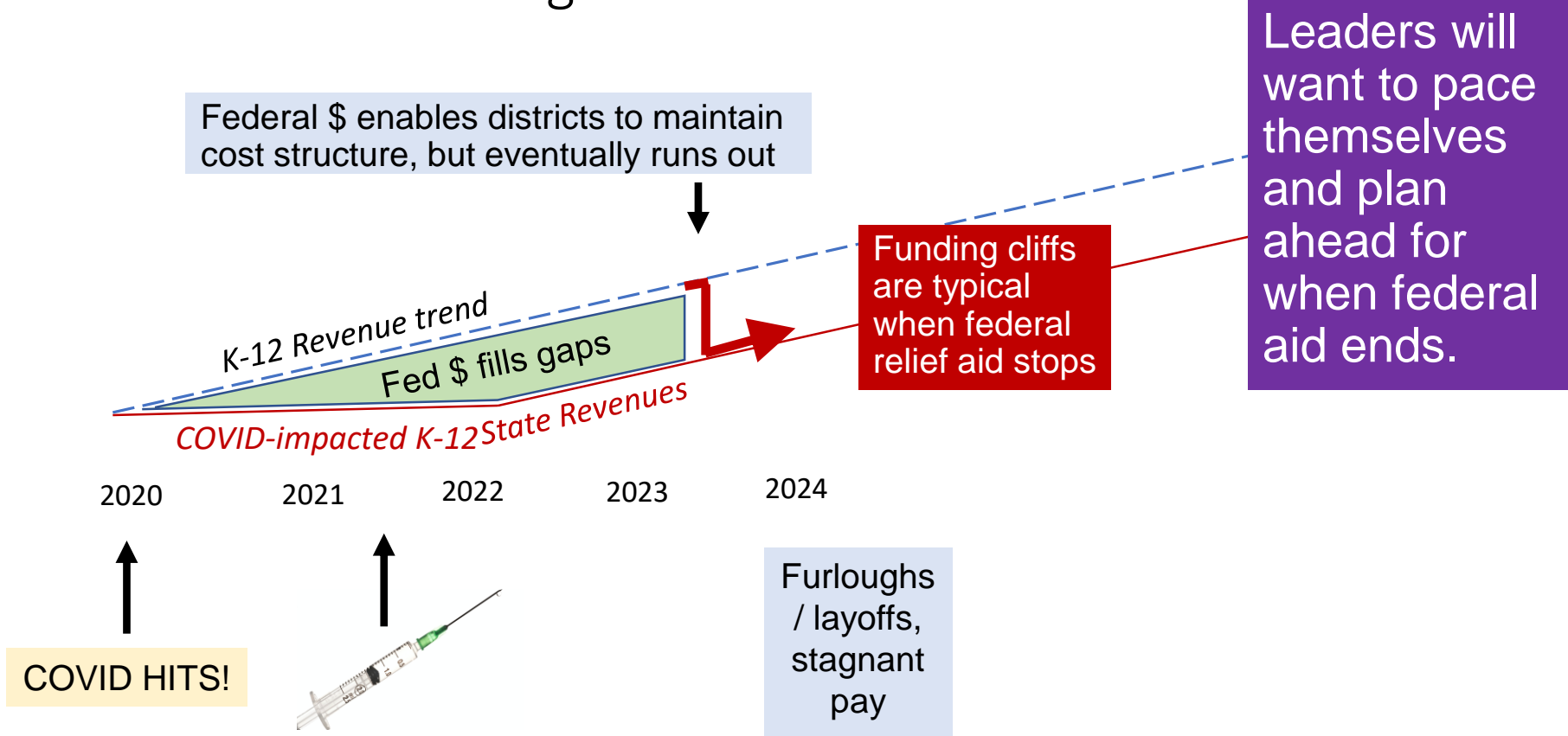
= \$76,716,157

- \$13,000,000 Indirect Costs (\$4 ESSER II and \$9 ESSER III)  
**Indirect costs** are those costs not readily identified with a specific project or strategy, for example summer school
- \$3,000,000 Emergency set-aside
- = **\$61,041,296\***

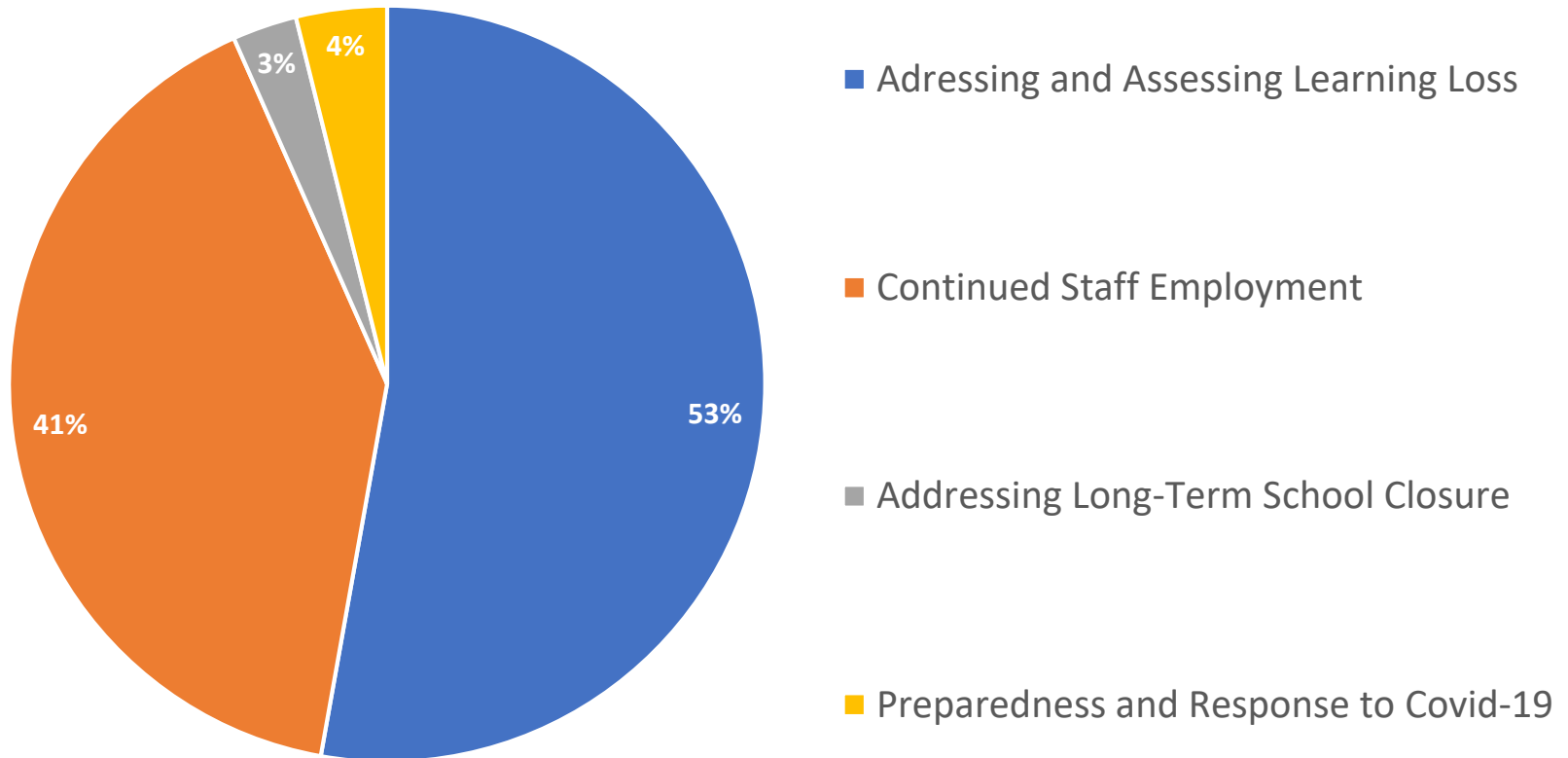
\*ESSER II & ESSER III are still preliminary until state budget is finalized



# How to avoid a funding cliff?

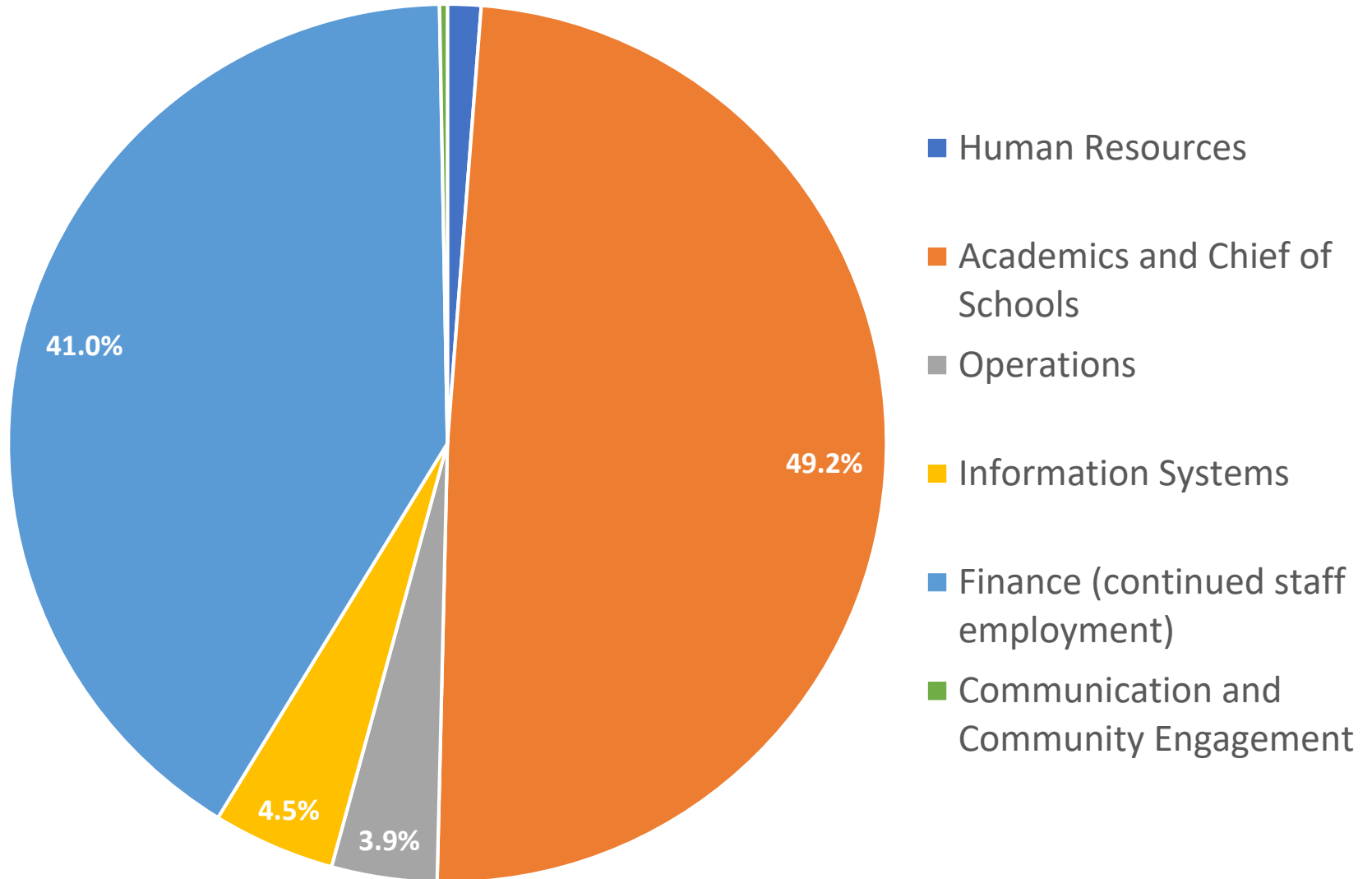


# ESSER Percent of Allowable Funding

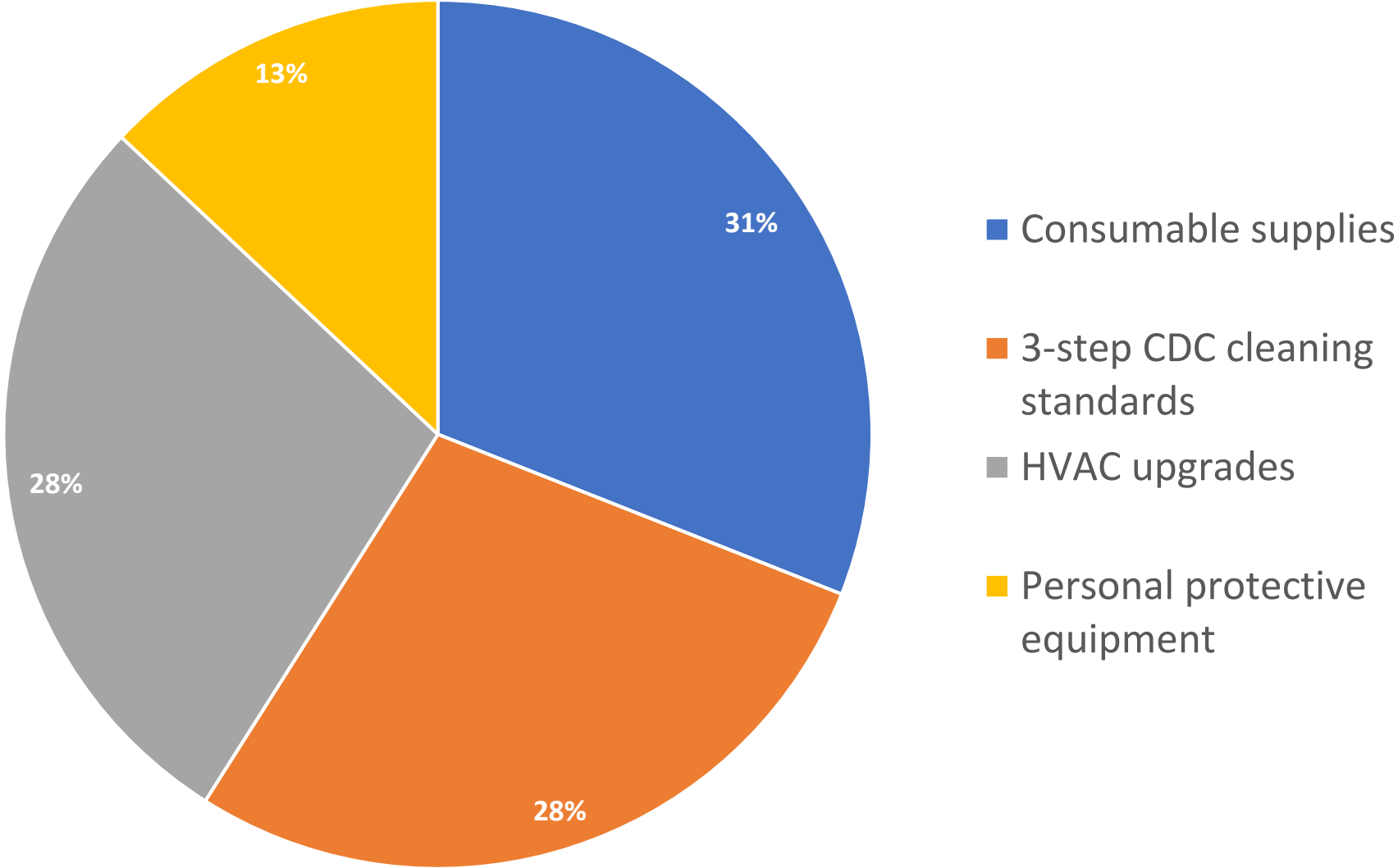


*Application for these funds includes a required description of how the funds will be used to overcome the types of barriers that can impede equitable access or participation in federally funded programs: Gender, race, national origin, color, disability, age, economically disadvantaged and families in transition.*

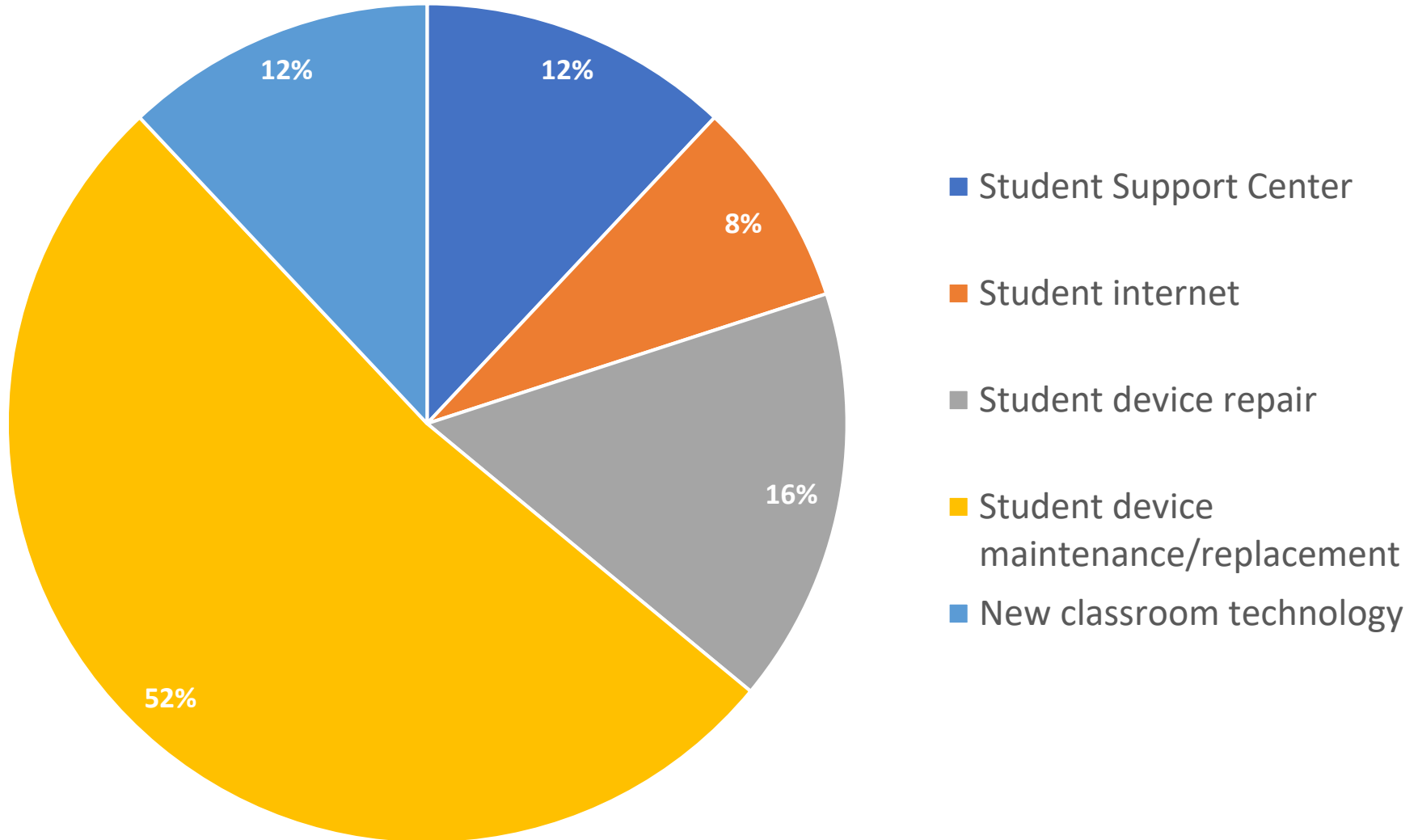
# ESSER Requests by Department



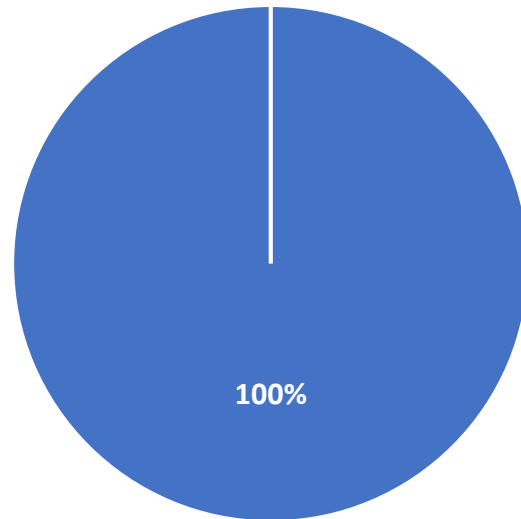
# Summary of Requests: Operations



# Summary of Requests: Information Systems



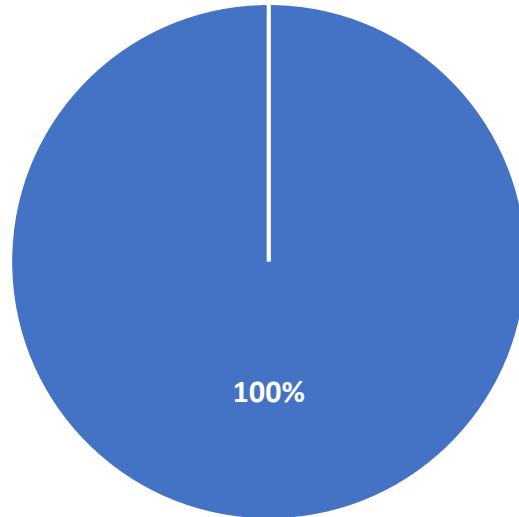
# Summary of Requests: Communications and Community Engagement



## Marketing/Communication Campaign

- Robust, comprehensive and diverse marketing and communication campaign that will engage the community, enhance our brand reputation and build awareness of our excellent programs and options with a goal of increasing enrollment.

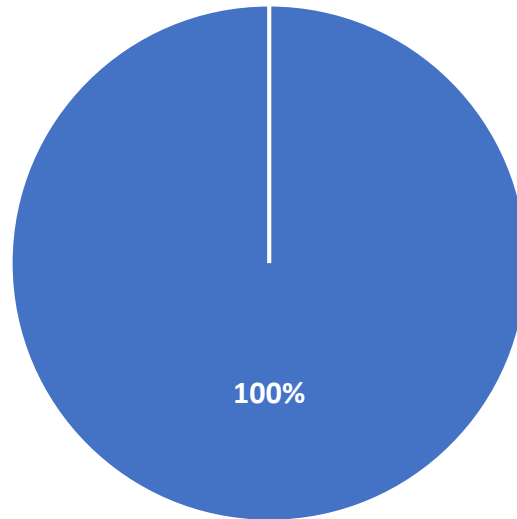
# Summary of Requests: Finance



## Staffing

- Allows district to maintain current staffing levels in light of state funding cuts

# Summary of Requests: Human Resources

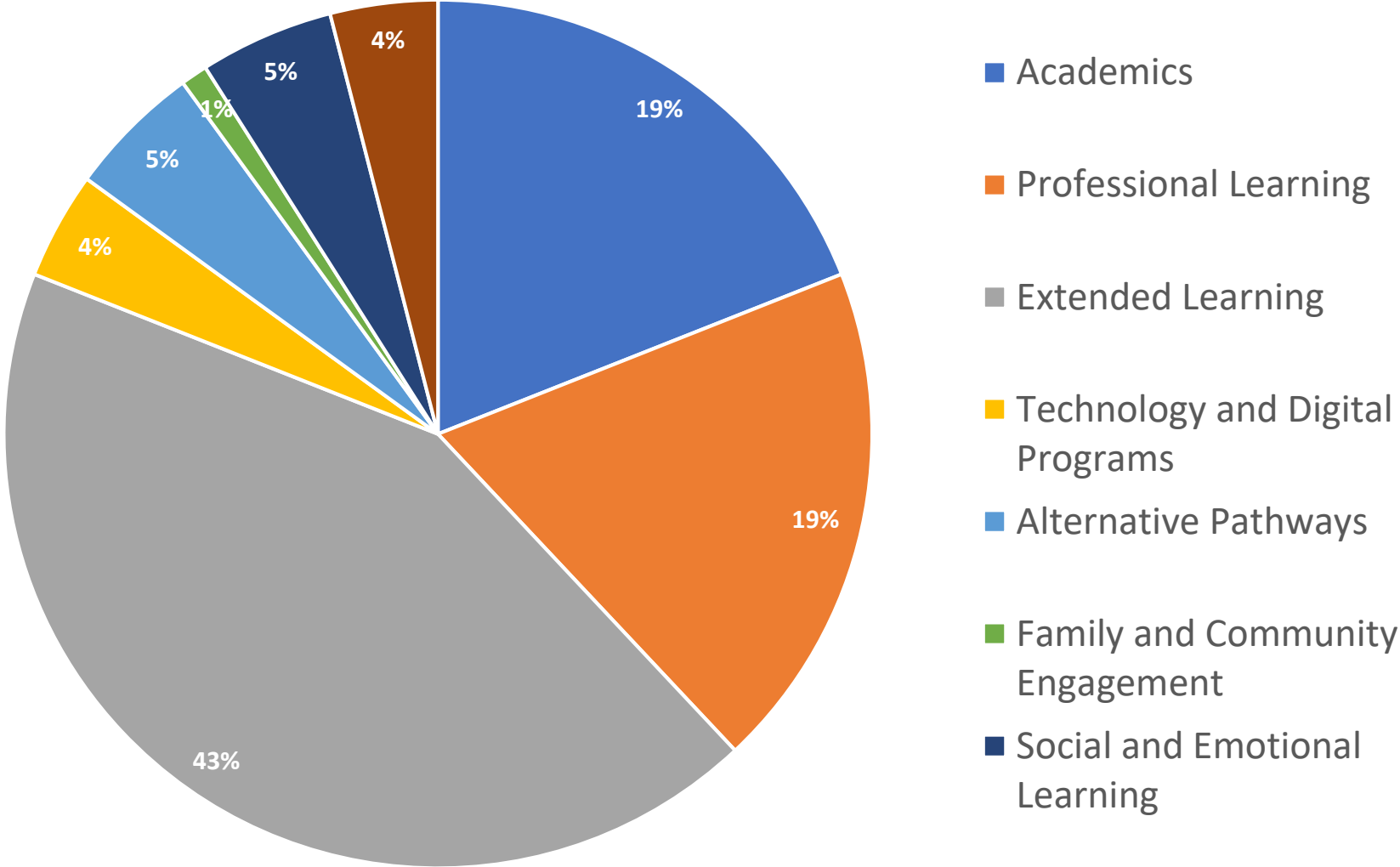


## Staffing: Substitute Teachers

- Provide designated building substitute teachers during the 2021-2022 school year to provide continuity of instruction



# Summary of Requests: Academics and Chief of Schools



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# Clarifying Questions & Answers

Is more explanation needed to understand a particular funding item?

Has the rationale been explained for each department funding proposal?

Other clarifying questions?

***As best as possible, please keep questions focused on the materials presented.***



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# Community-Based ESSER Funding Prioritization Exercise

**Objective:** Individually, in small groups and as a whole group, prioritize and rank order resources, initiatives and programs provided\*, to inform RUSD leadership in finalizing ESSER funding plan.

*\*Funding options provided are based on the ESSER funding community engagement survey (1,800+ responses).*



# Community-Based ESSER Funding Prioritization Exercise Cont...

## Activity Process:

1. Individually, participants will complete the "prioritization worksheet," rank ordering the funding options and providing rationale for order placement;
2. At your tables, work as a small group to discuss individual reflections, and complete the "shared prioritization chart" with rationale for order placement. Identify a member of the group to share out to the whole group;
3. As a whole group, small group representatives will share their funding priorities. Facilitator will notate responses from each group on a "master chart";
4. Following the aggregation of all small group responses, facilitator will ensure alignment and consensus from the group on final outcome.

# ESSER Funding Options for Prioritization Exercise

## Funding Options

- Supports to overcome barriers to learning for underinvested students
- Strategies to recover from Covid-19 learning loss
- Out-of-school time tutoring
- Curriculum enhancements (inquiry, adaptive, and curricular-based)
- In-school social and emotional learning curriculum and initiatives
- Nutrition services (i.e.; federally funded afterschool meal programs)
- Student transportation for extended learning and extracurricular activities
- College-ready initiatives (i.e.; programs similar to Upward Bound)
- Career-ready initiatives (i.e.; certification attainment, work-based learning, and internships)
- Out-of-school time STEM opportunities (i.e.; robotics, coding, etc)

*\*Funding options provided are based on the ESSER funding community engagement survey (2,100+ responses).*

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# Individual Prioritization Worksheet



## Instructions

1. Identify and rank order the top five priorities from your perspective;
2. Provide a rationale for your top choice;
3. Provide any additional context for the selection and ordering of your list.

7 minutes

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# Small Group Prioritization



## Instructions:

1. Each participant share individual worksheet responses;
2. Identify areas of consensus and divergence;
3. Discuss as a group and come to agreement to complete the “shared prioritization chart”
4. Provide rationale for prioritization (bullets are fine)
5. Identify a representative from your group to share out to the whole group

25 minutes

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# Whole Group Share-out and Prioritization



## Instructions:

1. Each small group representative shares out their group priorities;
2. Facilitator captures responses on a “master prioritization chart”;
3. All group priorities and rank order are averaged to create a whole group prioritization and rank for the funding options provided

18 minutes

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# Did we get it right?

## Based on the averaged results and rank order:

- Is anything left of the list entirely that someone wants to make the case to be included?
- Is there any item on the ranked list that, in your opinion, is more than TWO places outside of where you think it should be?
- Do we feel this prioritization will benefit the students and teachers in Racine Unified?

15 minutes

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# Next Steps

## Following the three community meetings:

- Final aggregate funding rankings will be averaged across all meetings and community funding priorities will be determined
- Final ESSER funding report will be completed and published to RUSD website
- RUSD will send final ESSER funding report to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

# Recap

Hopefully, we have been able to:

**Our goals for  
the day**

Understand with clarity, **previously made district ESSER funding recommendations** and rationale;

**Inform RUSD leadership through community-based prioritization activity** on district resources, initiatives and programs to inform outstanding ESSER district funding decisions;

**Identify and understand clear next steps** and utilization of community funding priorities

# THANK YOU!

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