American Rescue Plan Act Survey Feedback
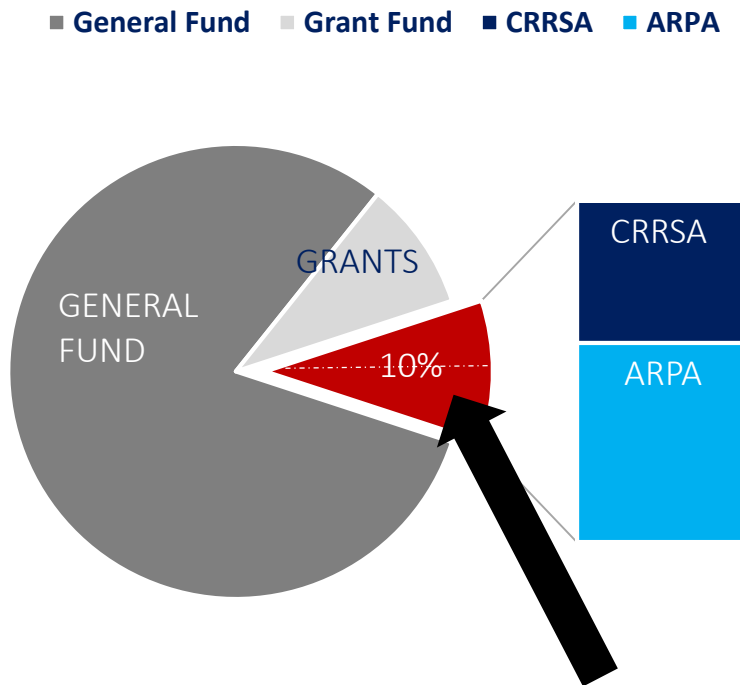
July 2021

Jaime Alicea, Superintendent of Schools

Federal Stimulus Funds

■ General Fund **■ Grant Fund** **■ CRRSA** **■ ARPA**

GRANTS

GENERAL
FUND

10%

CRRSA

ARPA

- ARPA & CRRSA Federal Stimulus funds will be about 10% of all the money the district spends this school year

- ARPA alone will be about 6%

- The ARPA plan and the ARPA survey apply only to this 6%

- Stipulations on what ARPA funds can be spent on

ARPA   American Recovery Plan Act
CRRSA   Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations

SCSD Building Our Future

ARPA Survey Deployment

- ✓ Emailed to staff and families
- ✓ Superintendents Cabinet, Teachers Advisory Council, and Parent Advisory Group
- ✓ Union Leadership
- ✓ District Facebook & Twitter Accounts
- ✓ CoVideo Chats
- ✓ CNY Central Facebook Live
- ✓ Family Engagement Events

Building Our Future

American Rescue Plan: Acceptable Use of Funds

Minimum 20% to address Loss Instructional Time with evidence-based interventions such as:

- Summer Learning & Enrichment
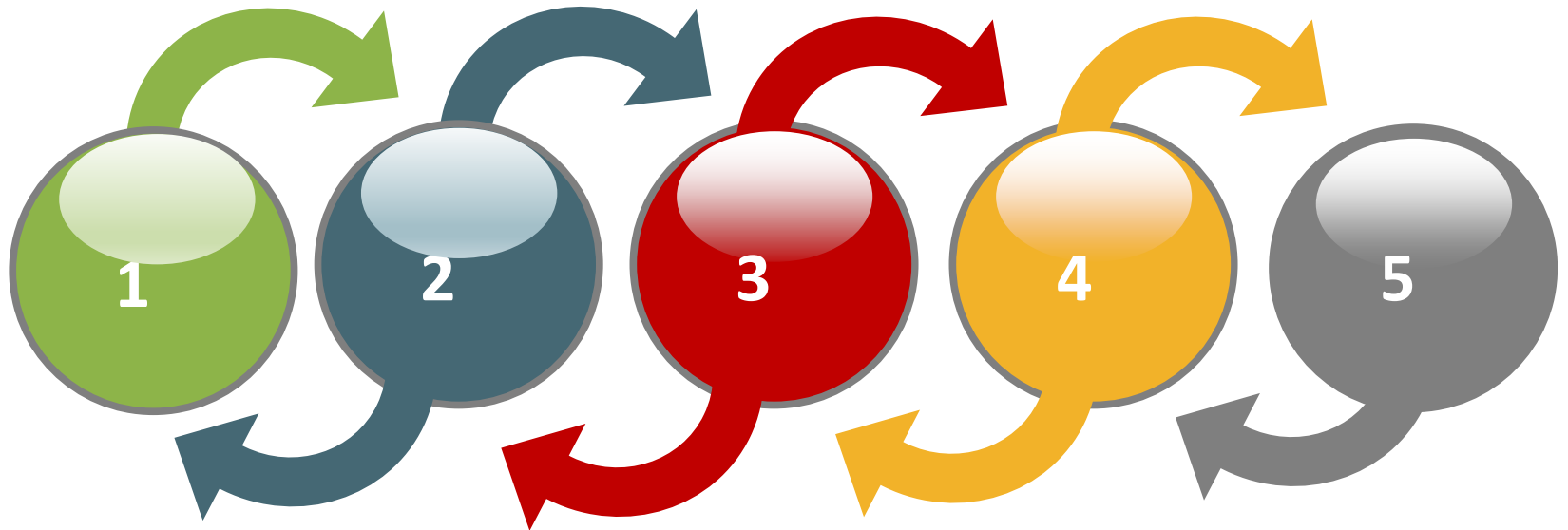- Extended Day & Afterschool
- Extended School Year

Ensuring interventions respond to academic and social emotional needs

- High quality academic assessments
- Tracking attendance
- Building repairs and upgrades addressing indoor air quality and mechanicals
- Safe return to in-person learning
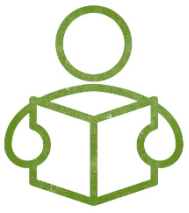- Strategies to implement public health protocols

- Coordination with other entities to slow spread of COVID-19
- Improve preparedness for a pandemic
- Training to minimize spread of disease
- Supplies & equipment to sanitize
- Plan for long-term school closures including delivery of meals & technology
- Technology and connectivity
- Mental Health supports and full-service community schools
- Parent and Family assistance to effectively support students
- Maintenance of Equity Requirement

ARPA-ESSER Funding requires public comment from parents, teachers and stakeholders and funding requires creation and publication of spending plan
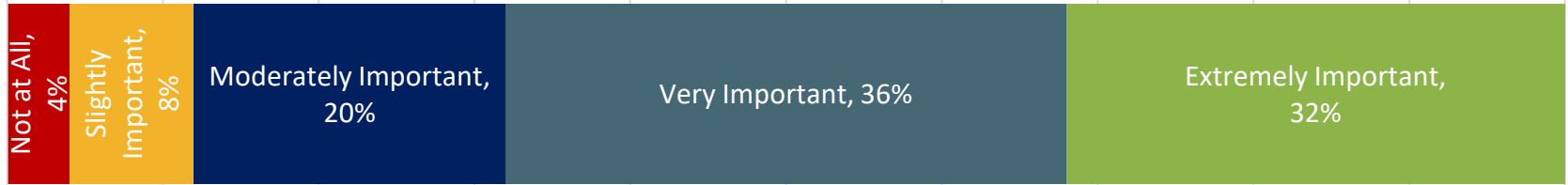
SC SD Building Our Future

District Outlined 5 Strategic Areas

1. **Learning – Acceleration of Instruction**
2. **Mental Health & Social-Emotional Well-Being**
3. **Air Quality**
4. **Technology**
5. **Professional Development**

http://www.syracusecityschools.com/districtpage.cfm?pageid=11653

LEARNING - ACCELERATION OF INSTRUCTION

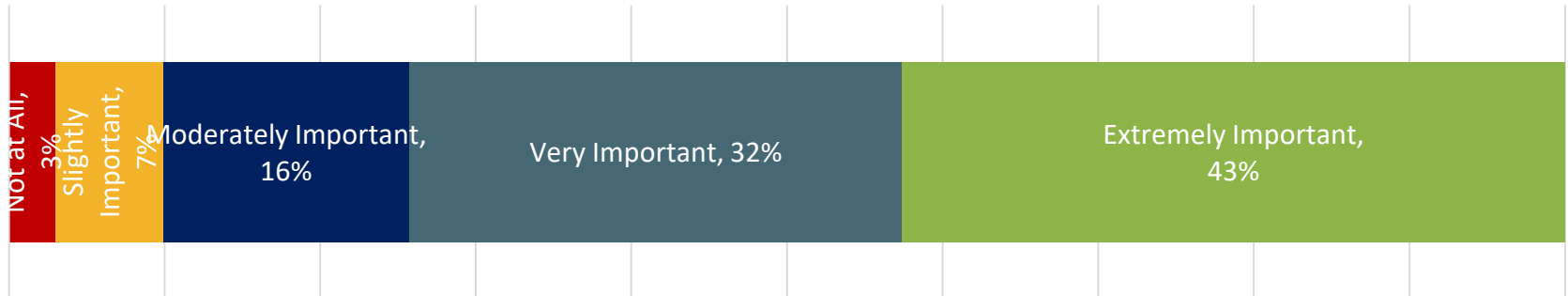| Not at All, 4%	Slightly Important, 8%	Moderately Important, 20%	Very Important, 36%	Extremely Important, 32%

- Full-Day Summer Enrichment (morning academics and afternoon activities)

- Reading & Math Intensive Support

- Additional Supports for Students with Disabilities

- Specific English Language Learner focus

- Field Trips / Civic Engagement

- Virtual High School Academy

Building Our Future

MENTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Not at All, 3%	Slightly Important, 7%	Moderately Important, 16%	Very Important, 32%	Extremely Important, 43%

- Culturally appropriate books & materials supporting mental health and social-emotional well-being

- Partner with community agencies

- Additional access to Psychologists, Social Workers and Counselors

- Attendance Teams focused on getting kids back to school

Building Our Future

AIR QUALITY

Not at All, 4%	Slightly Important, 8%	Moderately Important, 21%	Very Important, 30%	Extremely Important, 36%

- Air Purifiers / Air Filters

- Upgrade Ventilation Systems

- Update Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) Controls

- Replace Windows

- Replace Carpet and Flooring

TECHNOLOGY

Not at All, 5%	Slightly Important, 8%	Moderately Important, 24%	Very Important, 30%	Extremely Important, 33%

- Provide a new laptop to every high school student starting with 9th grade students

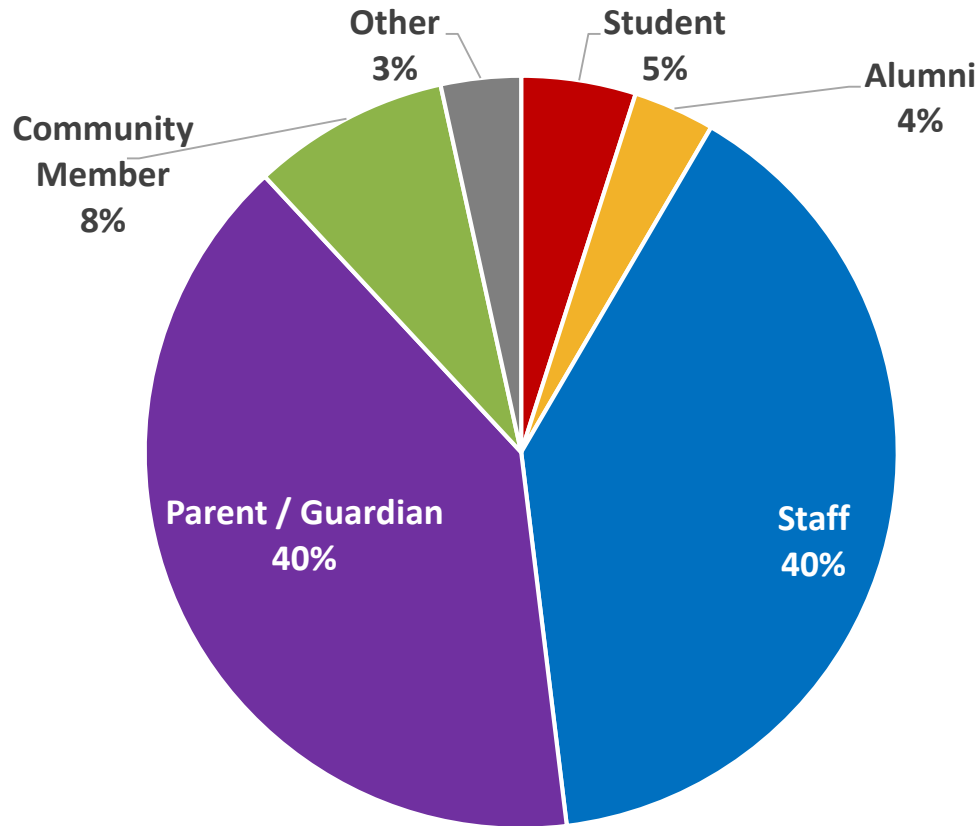- WIFI connectivity and laptops on hand for remote learning

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

| Not at All, 5% | Slightly Important, 11% | Moderately Important, 23% | Very Important, 29% | Extremely Important, 32% |

- Technology Integration Coaching & Support

- Math & Reading Intervention

- Culturally Responsive Practices

- Social Emotional Learning & Mental Health Awareness
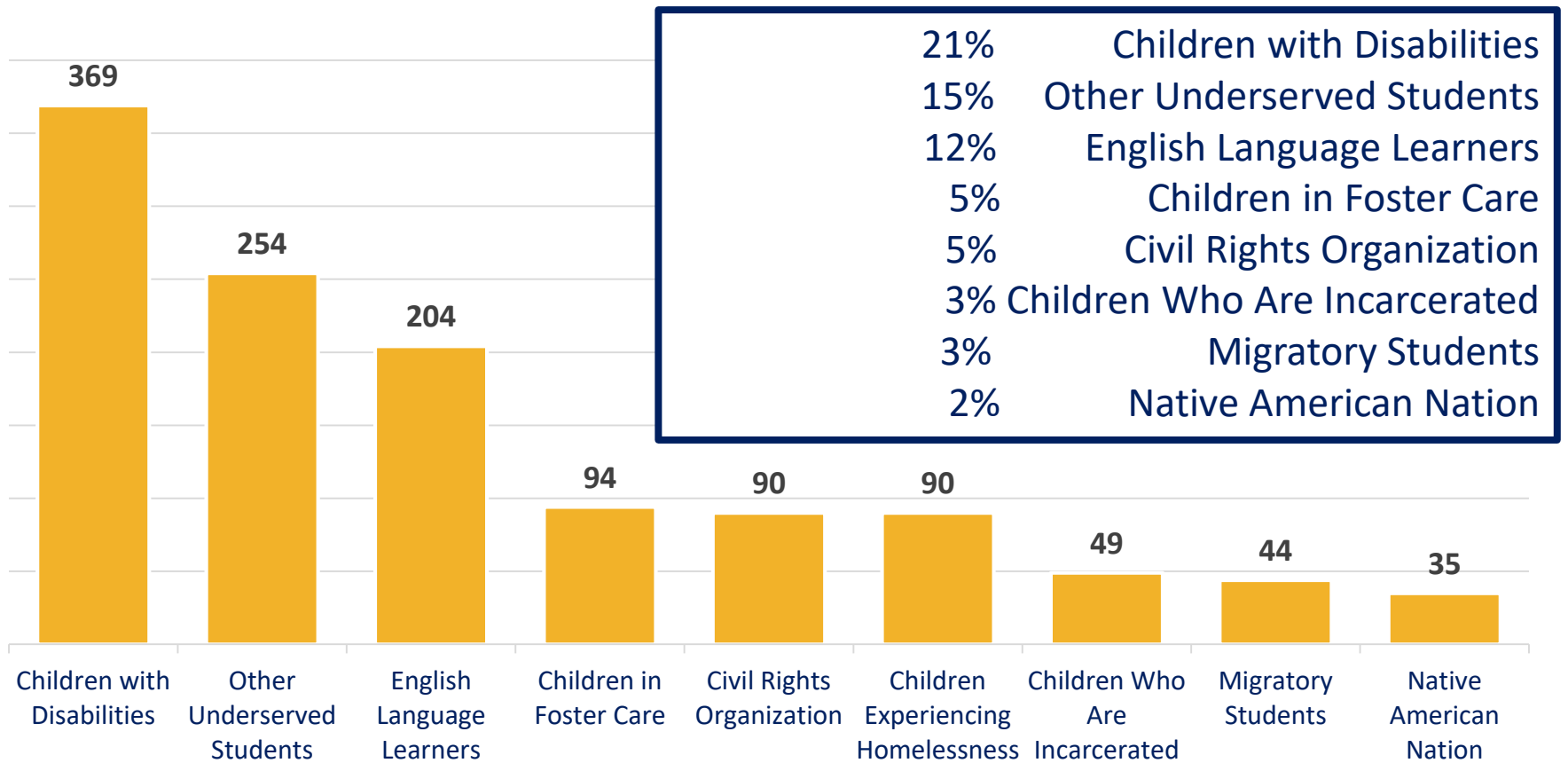
- Project-Based Learning

- Advanced Placement

SCSD Building Our Future

Who Responded

2,252 Surveys were opened

1,721 Surveys were submitted and responded to some or all of the questions

Who Responded

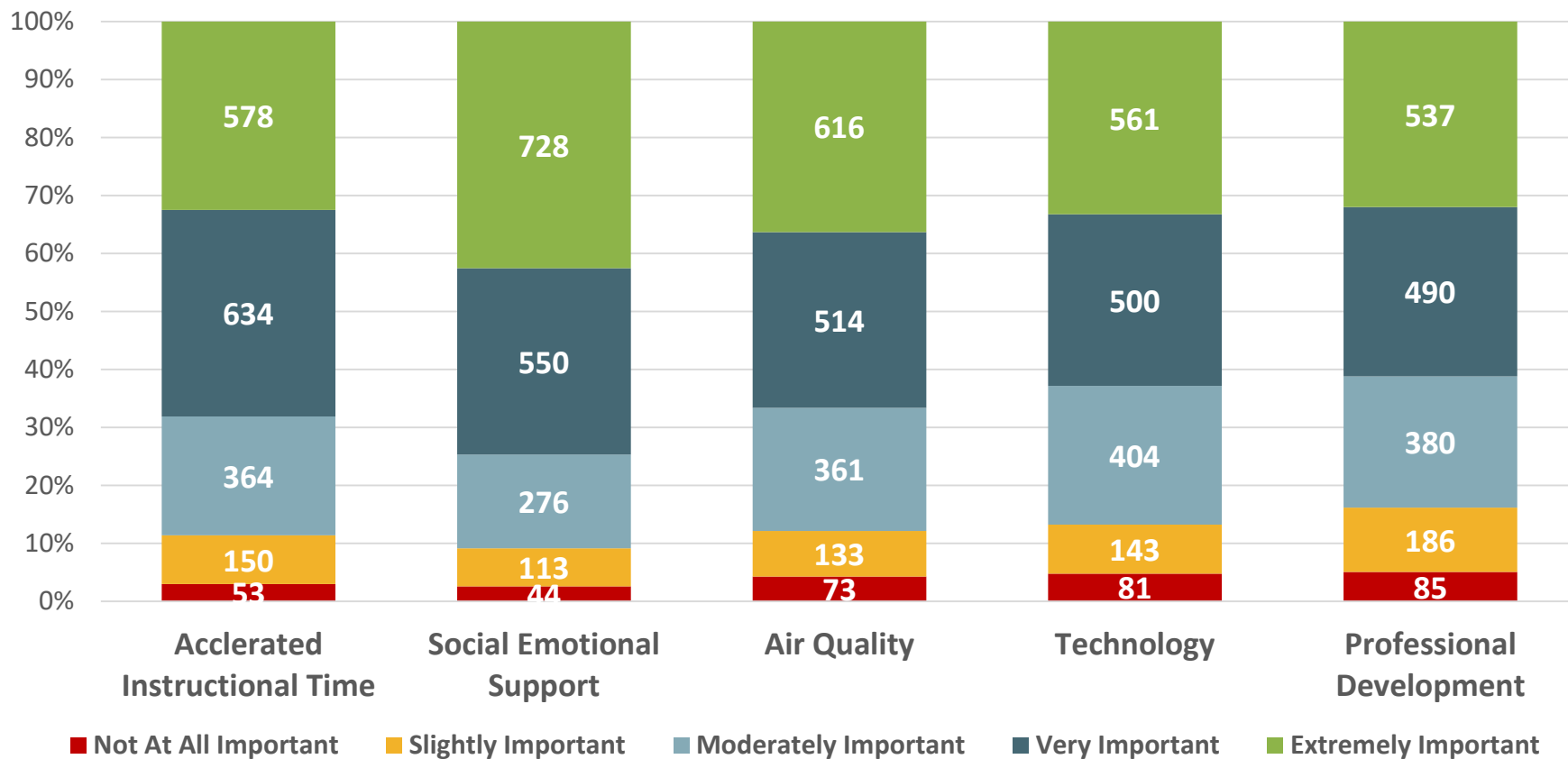*"Are you connected to any of the following?"*

21%	Children with Disabilities
15%	Other Underserved Students
12%	English Language Learners
5%	Children in Foster Care
5%	Civil Rights Organization
3%	Children Who Are Incarcerated
3%	Migratory Students
2%	Native American Nation

Bar chart values:
- Children with Disabilities: 369
- Other Underserved Students: 254
- English Language Learners: 204
- Children in Foster Care: 94
- Civil Rights Organization: 90
- Children Experiencing Homelessness: 90
- Children Who Are Incarcerated: 49
- Migratory Students: 44
- Native American Nation: 35

Building Our Future

Overall Survey Responses

	Acclerated Instructional Time	Social Emotional Support	Air Quality	Technology	Professional Development
Extremely Important	578	728	616	561	537
Very Important	634	550	514	500	490
Moderately Important	364	276	361	404	380
Slightly Important	150	113	133	143	186
Not At All Important	53	44	73	81	85

Legend: ■ Not At All Important ■ Slightly Important ■ Moderately Important ■ Very Important ■ Extremely Important

Comments & Feedback Section

- This next section highlights some, not all, recommendations from the respondents that were common themes or items not specifically outlined in the District Plan overview

- Some recommendations may be addressed by the District outside of the scope of ARPA Funding (for example, painting hallways and classrooms)

- Full text of survey comments are in the Board Bulletin

Comments & Feedback

- More staff – Teachers, TA's & reduce class size

- Tutors before and afterschool and in evening

- Bring back Foster Grandparents

- Assimilate new online streaming culture to engage kids – create SCSD Portal to encourage students learn at their own pace

- Partner with ethnic-based community organizations

Comments & Feedback

- Consistent curriculum / universal design for learning
- Student-friendly materials and systems
- Re-establish clubs and committee activities
- Adaptive equipment for special needs (speech, hearing)
- Peer mentors & community role model mentors
- Relationship building that help students and families feel connected to school
- Bring back the middle school GREAT program

Comments & Feedback

- Robust college & career readiness centers in high schools

- More supply money for classroom teachers

- Re-establish health classes led by certified health instructors and mental health professionals

- Open school libraries all summer

- Create outdoor learning labs

- Provide investigative & exploratory activities

SC SD Building Our Future

Comments & Feedback

- Increase transportation
- High expectations for behavior
- Designated recess time
- Sports offerings at all grade levels
- Turf baseball fields
- Bridge programs for transitioning to middle and high school with skill development for note-taking & time management
- Social skill development for early grades

Comments & Feedback

- Teach Life Skills – taxes, insurance, banking, buying a car, buying a house and parenting

- HBCU College Tour

- More therapists – speech, occupational therapists, physical therapists, hearing impaired

- Teach fun stuff – fishing, kayaking, camping, skiing, photography, gardening, knitting

Comments & Feedback

- Air Conditioning / cover skylights / fans
- Building renovations and updates
- Air quality, filtration and circulation
- Cleanliness of buildings
- 1:1 devices at all grades
  - 50 / 50 split - if students should be allowed to take devices home
- Citywide broadband access
- Suggestions for different brands & types of technology devices and broadband / Wi-Fi

Comments & Feedback

- Test and upgrade water systems

- Update bathroom facilities with more sinks

- Improve classroom furniture

- DARE Program – Drug Abuse Resistance Education

- LGBTQ Education

- Address gangs and violence in the streets

- Start school 2 weeks earlier instead of summer school

Comments & Feedback

- Bi-Lingual development for teachers

- 50 / 50 split on support for Professional Development

- Bring joy back to school

- 12-month enrichment programming

ARPA Next Steps

- Still waiting for State guidance and ARPA application …

- Incorporate feedback into ARPA Plan and communicate 'feedback action plan'

- Request Board approval on ARPA Plan

- Post & Submit ARPA Plan

- Implement and continuously review federal stimulus investments and spending plan

- Ensure systems and processes align to audit standards