

BUFFALO'S PLAN FOR HOW TO SPEND FEDERAL AID TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS OUT.

NOW WHAT?

Buffalo schools are slated to receive an additional \$333 million in state and federal aid. All districts were required to publicly post their spending plans for this new funding on or before July 1.

With nearly 700 school districts in New York State, we need your help to determine whether YOUR district's plan adequately addresses the needs and demands of families, educators and students in your community.

HOW DOES BUFFALO'S PLAN MEASURE UP?

You can review [Buffalo's spending plan](#) on the district's website by [clicking here](#).

What's included, and what's missing

+ Support Staff and Mental Health

~\$39M for "Student Support/Social Emotional" priority between 2021-2024 that includes additional funding for social emotional support staff

- Smaller Class Sizes

+ Technology

~\$38.1M for upgrades on "Information Technology" between 2021-2024 to establish "initiatives identified to support the needs of teachers and students"

+ Infrastructure

~\$38.9M for "Covid/Operations/Facility" improvements between 2021-2024 to reduce student and school-personnel risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental hazards

+ Summer Programs & Accelerated Learning

~\$173.4M for "Expanded EB [Education Bargain] Instructional Initiatives" between 2021-2024 that include summer 2021 learning programs across all grade levels

+ Community Schools

Existing community schools will be enhanced under the priority of family and community engagement

+ Anti-racism/restorative practices

The "entire ESSER funding ... will be aligned to the [Board's] equity goals" - including anti-racist focus in mental health supports and professional development, among many other initiatives

+ Recruit & retain diverse staff

Using Education Bargain funding, BPS commits to recruiting and retaining a diverse and effective body of school personnel

+ Culturally responsive & sustaining education

Using Education Bargain funding, BPS commits to ensure culturally and linguistically responsive resources and programming for students and staff

+ Broad & Continual Community Engagement

commits to engaging "students, teachers, families, school leaders, board members, parent leaders," etc. in the implementation of their plan



LEARN WHAT YOU CAN DO ►

STEP 1 REVIEW THE PLAN WITH YOUR COMMUNITY



Meet with parents and community members to review and discuss your district's plan. Together, identify the top three initiatives that your district is investing in. You can list them below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

STEP 2 TAKE ACTION

Share your community's feedback and concerns with your local school district's decision makers. Remember to report back on the meeting with district leaders to community members that are not able to attend.

For each of the programs you identified in Step 1, use the questions below as a guide for what to ask district leaders during the meeting.

- How many students will this program serve?
- When do you expect to roll out this program?
- How will you measure the effectiveness of this program?

In addition, consider the below questions to evaluate your district's plan:

- Are there any strategic investments missing from your district's plan? If yes, inform district leaders of what essential programs are missing.
- Do you want the district to reallocate resources from another program to support this initiative? If yes, please explain.



MEET WITH YOUR SUPERINTENDENT & CFO

Use this [sample letter](#) to request a meeting with your superintendent.



SPEAK UP AT A LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Check your local school district website to find the date of the next meeting.



ORGANIZE A PTA/PTO MEETING

Use these [step-by-step instructions](#) to organize a PTA or PTO meeting.

STEP 3 BUILD PUBLIC SUPPORT & ENGAGEMENT

Organize an [education town hall](#) for your community to learn about the district's funding plan.

Write an [op-ed](#) in your local newspaper about how you and your community want this funding to be spent.

Organize a [press conference](#) to bring attention to the issues in your local community.

CONNECT WITH US

Statewide

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