

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

NOW WHAT?

Utica schools are slated to receive an additional \$95.7 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 UTICA'S PLAN MEASURE UP?

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

What's included, and what's missing

+ Support Staff and Mental Health

~\$6.5M for "meeting student social, emotional and mental health needs" - that includes ongoing school personnel training and PD in socioemotional and mental health competencies

- Smaller Class Sizes

+ Technology

~\$12M for "Addressing Achievement Gaps and Learning Loss" that includes upgrading instructional technology to improve specialized instruction delivery

+ Infrastructure

~\$20.4M for "Safely returning students to full-time in-person instruction" that includes upgrading HVAC systems and other safety improvements to buildings & additional instructional supply purchase under the ~\$12M for addressing learning loss

+ Summer Programs & Accelerated Learning

Expanded credit recovery and course offerings under addressing learning loss dollars & \$7M for "Raise the graduation rate" that includes increased internship programming for students

- Community Schools

+ Anti-racism/restorative practices

UCSD was not explicitly clear on this point, but they did commit to provide staff development on "differentiated instruction and inclusive practices" with the \$6.4M for "Providing resources and support for English Language Learners (ELLs), Students with Disabilities, and students experiencing homelessness"

- Recruit & retain diverse staff

+ Culturally responsive & sustaining education

UCSD did not explicitly use CRSE language, but they did commit to: provide specialized resources, programming and supports to address the needs ELL and bilingual students and families under the previously mentioned \$6.4M

- Broad & Continual Community Engagement



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?

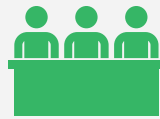
In addition, consider the below questions to evaluate your district's plan:

- 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

Stevie Vargas
stevie@aqeny.org
321-318-1287