

WHAT DO DISTRICT SPENDING PRIORITIES LOOK LIKE POST-COVID?

ESSER has injected \$193 billion into schools to help students recover from the pandemic. How are districts spending the money so far?

In order to gain insight on this, we interviewed and surveyed 402 principals and district leaders from a mix of urban, suburban, and rural districts receiving Title I funding.

Here's what we learned.

Districts are clear on their needs

Learning recovery, COVID safety, and student well-being are top concerns for leaders right now.

Top concerns for 2021 - 2022 school year

Percent selecting as top 3 concern, n = 402



District leaders agree with the basic case for tutoring and digital supplements.

Answered "agree" or "strongly agree to the following prompts, n = 402

Percent answered "agree" or "strongly agree", n = 402





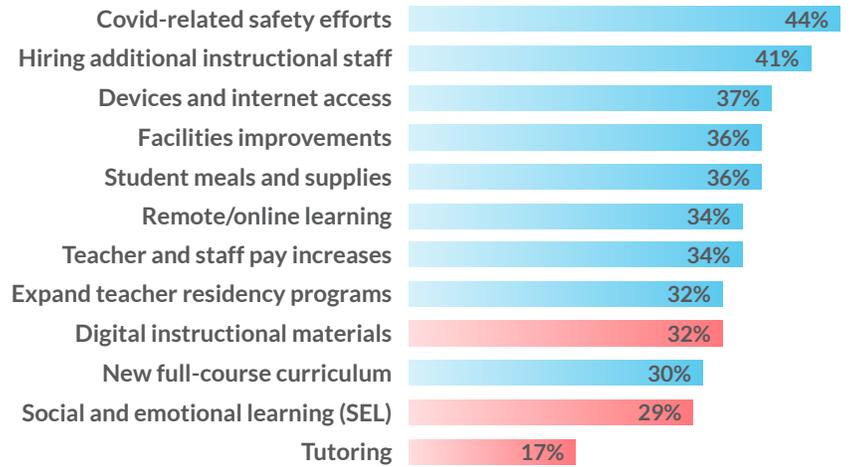
How districts plan to use ESSER funds

When it comes to spending ESSER funds, COVID-related safety efforts, hiring instructional staff, and digital devices are at the top of leaders' priority lists.

Tutoring and digital supplements fall lower among leaders' planned spending priorities.

Top ESSER spending priorities

Percent selecting all that apply, n = 402



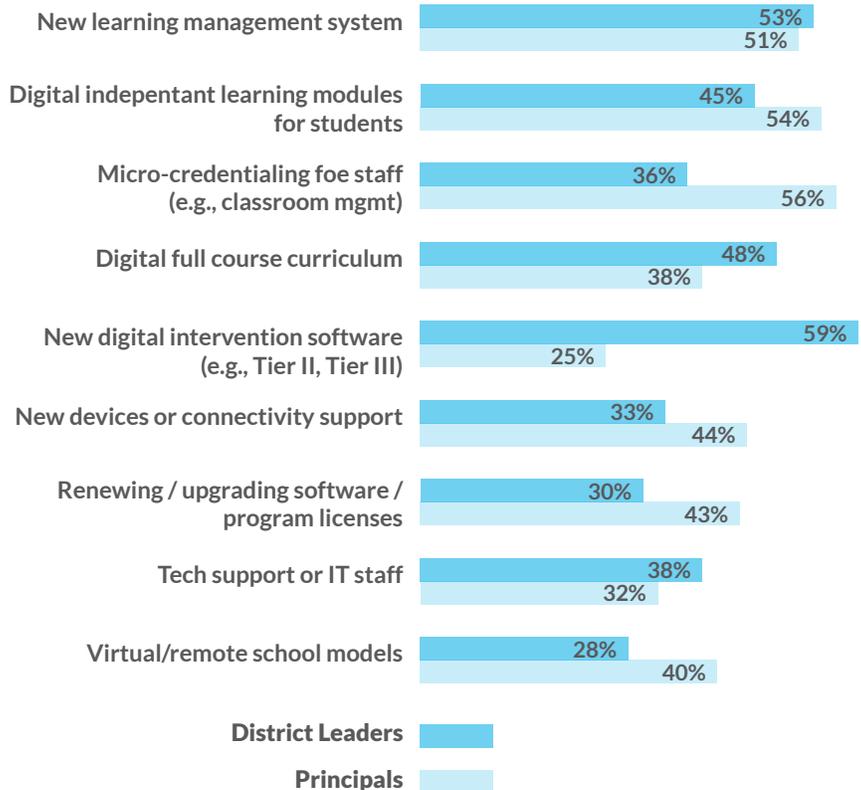
Which digital supplements are districts purchasing?

Leaders are prioritizing some digital solutions more than others.

Tools that enable digital Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions lead the way.

Digital instruction ESSER III investments

Percent selecting, n = 64 district leaders; 63 principals

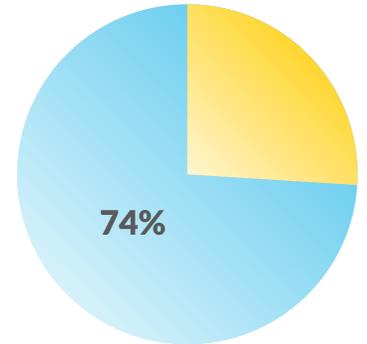




ESSER: An opportunity to cover the cost of high-dosage tutoring

Among district leaders, tutoring has a broad base of support.

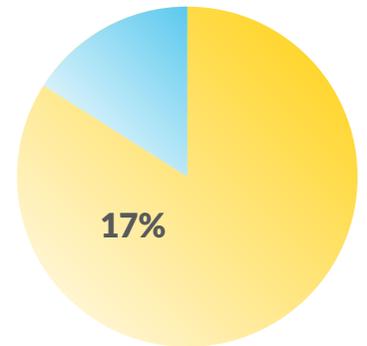
74% of surveyed leaders agree or strongly agree that small group tutoring offers the **most powerful** way to address unfinished learning



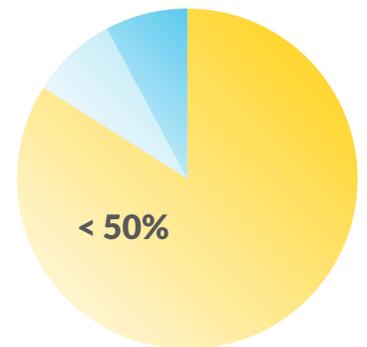
Despite the demonstrated efficacy of high-dosage tutoring, districts haven't identified it as a priority for spending ESSER funds.

Even districts that indicate tutoring as a priority appear unlikely to maintain the investment in the long-term.

Only **17%** of education leaders surveyed indicated tutoring services as a spending priority for ESSER funds.



And **< 50%** of these leaders see tutoring becoming part of their long-term budget.



Even those who do see tutoring as a long-term strategy indicate they might pivot if budgets decline.



ESSER: An opportunity to cover the cost of high-dosage tutoring (continued)

Districts implementing tutoring programs are at risk of not following best practices.

4:1
Student-to-tutor ratio



Only half of education leaders interested in tutoring investments plan a student-to-tutor ratio of 4:1 or smaller (the recommended high-dosage range).

