

VOICE 4 CHANGE Funding Guidance

★ Giving Students a Say in Education Funding ★

When organizations receive funding from the government, it almost always comes with a set of rules for how the funding can be spent. To help local districts spend their American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funding, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) issued a guidance document to ensure that district spending falls within the rules set by the U.S. Department of Education.

Now, it's your turn to pitch how you will spend \$20,000, **but just like states and districts, you have to make your pitch using the following funding priorities.** The Voice4Change application will ask you to explain which priority (or priorities) your pitch falls under and why. While the CSDE is not evaluating proposals based on how many priorities they fulfill, making the case for multiple priorities may help you gather more support while campaigning! With your help, we can use this funding to reimagine your school to transform students' lives.

Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal, and Student Enrichment focuses on the academic supports students need to thrive and become well-rounded, engaged citizens upon graduation.

Family and Community Connections focuses on investing in strengthening or forming new school-family-community partnerships to support students.

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health of the Students and School Staff focuses on supporting students and school staff to re-engage with their school communities as we've returned to in-person learning.

Strategic Use of Technology, Staff Development, and the Digital Divide focuses on the importance of in-person learning balanced with the strategic use of technology to expand learning opportunities.

Building Safe and Healthy Schools focuses on allocating resources to support the physical health and safety of students and school staff.

PROPOSAL MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

This is what the CSDE will use to determine whether or not your proposal is eligible to be on the ballot.

District and school have opted-in to Voice4Change.

If primary point-of-contact is in grade 12, proposal provides description of how the plan will be carried out in the following school year OR is working with additional group members not in grade 12.

The proposal aligns with at least one of the outlined ARP ESSER priorities and is allowable under federal ARP ESSER rules.

- The proposal falls within the given budget of \$20,000 and demonstrates thought given to and research examining possible costs. Possible expenditures may include but are not limited to materials and supplies, staffing, transportation, etc.

BE SURE TO FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE LATEST VOICE4CHANGE UPDATES!



Connecticut State Department of Education



@EducateCT



@Educate.CT



VOICE 4 CHANGE

VOICE 4 CHANGE Funding Guidance

★ Giving Students a Say in Education Funding ★

BRAINSTORMING HELP!	GUIDING QUESTIONS	KEEP IN MIND...
Learning Acceleration	What academic gaps do you notice in your school as a result of COVID-19, and how can you address them? How can you reimagine a program currently in place or implement a new one to spark student learning? How can you enhance programs already in place to reach students especially impacted by the pandemic?	Enrichment doesn't always happen in the classroom. What extracurricular activities could help support student learning?
Family and Community Connections	How could your school better connect with families or community organizations? Is there a specific event or series of events you could pitch to connect your school with families and/or the community? How could your high school connect with other schools in the district?	Families and communities come in all different shapes and sizes. Connecticut's student body—and therefore its families—are beautifully diverse. We strive to be inclusive of all of our families and their backgrounds.
Supporting Mental Health of Students and Staff	We know that mental health supports can be costly, but what small, impactful changes can be made or resources/spaces be made available in your school community to support students and staff? What programs already in place in your school could be reimaged?	When making your pitch, consider how your proposal may mainly fall under another priority but could also support social, emotional, and mental health.
Strategic Use of Technology	What online software do you wish your school had access to? What technology or equipment could enhance a specific course offered at your school?	When making your pitch, consider how technology could also enhance family and community connections or accelerate learning.
Building Safe and Healthy Schools	Construction can be costly; what low-cost improvements would make your school a healthier place? What spaces—especially outdoor ones—could be improved?	Connecticut's student body is comprised of students with varying abilities. We want to ensure that our school buildings and the amenities within them are accessible to all of our students.

BE SURE TO FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE LATEST VOICE4CHANGE UPDATES!

 Connecticut State Department of Education
  @EducateCT
  @Educate.CT

