

SAN JUAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Community Engagement: Theme Summary

San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) is committed to ensuring the voices of students, staff, families, and community members are lifted into the planning, implementation, and evaluation of how education is delivered to our approximately 39,000 students. Outlined below is the district process for gathering meaningful community input to inform actions and expenditures using the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds under the American Rescue Plan Act, referred to as ESSER III funds.

A ThoughtExchange, an online platform that allows groups to come together and have conversations about important topics or questions that exist for a community, was conducted from August 23, 2021, through August 27, 2021. The ThoughtExchange focused on students, parents/guardians, staff members, and the community, and explored ideas for improving and upgrading our facilities and other operations to support continuous and safe in-person learning while reducing and preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Approximately 300 participants responded to share their thoughts or rate the ideas shared by others. The results were used, along with other qualitative data, to help guide planning and decision-making for the ESSER III Expenditure Plan.

Findings from the ThoughtExchange include the following themes and sub-themes ranked in order of importance:

1. Air Quality
 - Upgraded air filtration and HVAC systems at all schools for all rooms
 - Quality air purifiers in all rooms
 - Ability to open windows and doors to increase air flow
2. Outdoor Spaces
 - More outdoor tables for eating
 - Develop outdoor areas for classes
 - Build outdoor shade structures
3. Smaller Classes
 - Too many students in classes create safety and infection issues
4. Cleaning and Hygiene
 - Floor and surface cleaning daily
 - Universal protocol for hand washing, especially before eating
 - Install hand sanitizing stations in key areas at all school sites
5. Staffing/Subs
 - Increase custodians
 - Increase substitute pay to alleviate staff shortages
 - More teachers in schools to support quarantined students to mitigate learning loss
 - Hire more recreational aides for outdoor supervision
6. COVID-19 Testing
 - Provide rapid test kits at all schools
 - Regular testing
 - Expanded testing at all schools for accessibility
7. Facilities Upgrades
 - Replace drinking fountains with touchless water bottle filling stations
 - Screens on windows
 - Autoflush sinks and toilets
 - Fence school perimeters for student safety
8. Planning and Communication
 - Transparent and improved sharing of COVID-19 protocols
 - Notify all families in a classroom when a student tests positive

- Immediate notification to families when a student(s) tests positive
 - All schools should use the same reporting requirements and COVID protocols
9. Meal Logistics
 - Outdoor tables to promote better distancing
 - Continue free meals for all students to improve learning
 - Staggered lunch times
 10. Technology
 - More robust servers
 - Live stream classes
 - Chromebooks at home to help quarantined students
 - Low/no cost internet; Wi-Fi hotspots for reliable internet access
 11. Learning Models
 - Provide video lessons to quarantined students
 - Unvaccinated students to stay in distance learning model
 - Hybrid option for increase classroom spacing and infection control
 12. Mask
 - All staff need to wear correctly and enforce masking policy
 - Provide PPE to families for affordability and to ensure masks are clean
 - Mandatory masking
 13. Setup/Spacing
 - Increased social distancing during lunch
 - More outdoor tables to support distancing
 - Small pods/less intermingling of students
 14. Vaccines
 - Students to wear masks at all times if not vaccinated
 - Mandatory vaccines for staff

In September 2021, meetings were held with various community groups throughout the district to enhance the community engagement process and to help inform the ESSER III Expenditure Plan. These listening sessions provided a rich source of input that helped guide our decision-making process, specifically in the form of recommendations to help improve and upgrade our facilities and operations to build even safer learning environments. Three questions were developed based on the results of the previously conducted ThoughtExchange. The questions asked were:

1. What theme areas from the ThoughtExchange resonate with you and why?
2. What is missing that should be considered to help improve or maintain safe learning environments?
3. What are your top 5 priority areas from question 1 and 2?

Key themes and sub-themes that emerged across the various community engagement groups are outlined below:

American Indian Education Program (AIEP) listening session: 09/13/21

- Install motion activated water bottle refill stations
- Upgrade filtration systems
- Offer incentives
 - Create fun, incentive-based competitions, such as a poster competition, to maintain student awareness of COVID-19 safety protocols
- Sanitation
 - Constant cleaning and disinfecting of facilities
 - Purchase disinfecting sprayers
- Transparent communications
 - COVID-19 case counts and protocols
 - Create a brochure for families for distribution
 - Train teachers on how to communicate COVID-19 protocols

District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) meeting: 09/23/21

- Staffing
 - Increase Bilingual Instructional Assistants (BIAs)
 - Increase staff at schools who are bilingual
 - Substitute shortage
 - COVID-19 testing
- Cleaning and hygiene
 - Maintain standards for cleanliness and hygiene
 - Ensure soap dispensers are full at all times
 - Provide staff supervision to remind students to keep masks on, wash hands, and use sanitizer
 - District provided personal protective equipment including masks and hand sanitizer
- Smaller classes
 - Reduce class sizes for student safety and social distancing
 - Smaller classes help alleviate stress
- Outdoor spaces
 - Increase usable outdoor areas to help students stay safe and maintain social distancing
- Air Quality/Facilities
 - Limit outside activities due to heat and poor air quality
 - Increase indoor spaces when air quality is poor

Facilities Committee meeting: 09/15/21

- Outdoor spaces
 - Hold classes and events outdoors
 - Provide shade structures
 - Increase number of outdoor tables for lunch
- HVAC systems
 - Replace/upgrade existing HVAC to provide more robust and efficient systems
 - Replace old systems

Equity Community Collaborative Team listening session: 09/17/21

(Included SJUSD community partners: American Civil Liberties Union, Black Youth Leadership Project, Improve Your Tomorrow, Mutual Assistance Network, Project Optimism, United College Action Network, Youth Development Network)

- Staffing and substitute shortage
- Supports (academic and social emotional) for learning models not effective due to impacts of COVID-19
- Smaller class sizes
- Enforce mask mandate
- COVID-19 protocols prevent external partners from coming on campus if they are not currently under contract but a need has been identified for their services, especially for provision of social and emotional support

Extended Cabinet and SELPA Administrator listening session: 09/20/21

- Staffing
 - Substitutes, contract tracing, cleaning, COVID-19 testing, meal services
 - Thoughtful training for new staff
 - Incentivize pay
 - Creative and aggressive recruitment and advertisement
- COVID-19 testing/vaccines
 - Increase amount of testing
 - Offer vaccines on-site
 - Lack of availability of some rapid testing products
 - Increased demand for testing will result in an increased demand to secure rapid testing

- products
- Technology
 - Students in quarantine need devices
 - Upgrade Human Resources hiring system technology
 - Universal online hub for quarantine work
 - Faster service to sites
 - Sufficient inventory to meet needs
- Outdoor spaces
 - Provide covered structures for shade and inclement weather
 - Increase tables for outdoor eating
 - Provide outdoor space heaters
- Air Quality
 - Increase indoor spaces when air quality is unhealthy
 - Upgrade busses for efficient air control
 - Replace inefficient HVAC systems

Foster youth listening session: 09/16/21

- COVID-19 testing
 - Students are not aware of testing for school attendance, but are aware of testing for sports
- Spacing
 - Classes are overcrowded with students too close to each other
 - Outdoor activities to help with social distancing
- Facilities
 - Provide plastic barriers in the classrooms
- Mask
 - Enforce mask policy including how to properly wear masks

Homeless Youth 1:1 interviews: 09/08/21 - 09/16/21

Adults

- Facilities
 - Provide plastic screens in classrooms
 - Increase regularity of facility cleaning
- Outdoor
 - Increase seating
 - Covered shade structures
- Improve internet connectivity
- Smaller class sizes
- Mask policy and enforcement
- Outdoor
 - Increase seating
 - Increase shaded areas

Students

- Outdoor spaces
 - Increased seating
 - Covered shade structures
- Increase availability of hand sanitizer/wipes
- Facilities
 - Updated HVAC systems
 - Refillable water bottle stations
 - Improvements to outdoor common areas
- Improve internet connectivity
- Increase frequency of COVID-19 testing

Local Control and Accountability Plan Parent Advisory Committee (LCAP PAC) meeting: 09/16/21

- Communication
 - Mask and social distancing enforcement by district and school staff
 - Increase translation support
 - Improve communications regarding COVID-19 positive cases and quarantine policy
 - Improve communications from school attendance offices to home
 - Allow students/families to keep chromebooks for communications accessibility
 - Provide staff training and resources on how to deal with aggressive parents in light of COVID-19
- Sanitation
 - Soap, paper towel and hand sanitizer dispensers need to be kept filled
 - Tables, desks, and playground structures need to be cleaned regularly
 - District provided masks to ensure students have clean masks
- COVID-19 testing and vaccine administration
 - Accessibility - offer at each school site
- Independent study policy during quarantine
 - Quarantined students should have this option
 - Parents send their sick students to school since there is no independent study option
 - Quarantined students need access to assignments in a more expedient manner
- Student events
 - Events will support students socially and emotionally
 - Allow dances and rallies
 - Students do not understand why some events are allowed and some events are not allowed

Newcomer/Refugee listening session: 09/17/21 - students, 09/20/21 - parents

Parents

- Mental health and social supports
 - Students come from traumatic environments
 - Help transition from distance learning to in-person learning
 - Support and educate students on how to report violations such as bullying
 - Few resources available to assist bilingual students with disabilities
 - Staff/student training on cultural awareness to support students from diverse cultures
- Bilingual support
 - Facilitate student assimilation in school systems
 - Support Adult Education classes
 - Provide to both parents and students to decrease language barriers
 - Translate school site newsletters to help parents feel connected
 - Academic and social emotional support
 - Create Farsi/Dari/Pashto workshops/classes for Afghan refugees
 - Campus monitors/yard duty support to welcome students
- Academic
 - Increase after-school programs
 - Credit recovery classes for high school students
 - Offer year-long Early Literacy programs
 - Parent workshops in home languages (prefer Zoom) to educate about school systems
- Transportation
 - Lack of access to reliable transportation increases student absences
 - Students do not know how to navigate getting to school which results in high risk for accidents
 - Public transportation is not an option
- Outdoor spaces
 - Playground structures are old and unsafe
 - Increase amount of shade and outdoor usable spaces
 - Unsafe fencing

- Some schools do not have a drop-off and pick-up area creating safety issues

Students

- Student education on COVID-19 safety protocols and mask wearing enforcement for both staff and students
- Focus on academic achievements and teacher relationships to increase attendance
- Create a safe learning environment for all students to increase attendance and maintain positive attitudes
- Increase funds to implement programs to mitigate learning loss, especially for English learners and students with disabilities
- Increase mental health supports

Parents of students with disabilities listening session: 09/09/21

- Communications
 - Easy to find information
 - School site hubs in the same location for easy location
 - Plain language, not a lot of professional jargon
 - Use of visual supports such as flow charts
 - Mandate each school site to have a direct link to the district COVID-19 page
 - Have a social media page at each school site to find information quickly
- Provide more masks and water
 - Masks should be provided for free
 - If water fountains are turned off, water bottles should be free to students
- Insufficient staffing
 - Supervision - Before and after-school, lunches, etc.
 - Intervention plan - Students are staying home if sick, but are not receiving their IEP defined services
 - Expand instructional assistant (IA) hours to more than 6 hours per day
 - Increase staffing by offering more pay, more benefits, and more hours
 - Be more creative with existing staff as increasing pay does not always solve the issues
- COVID-19 testing
 - Offer at more school sites for accessibility - Parents often experience transportation and affordability issues
 - Offer saliva testing for those students who cannot do the nostril testing

San Juan Professional Educators Coalition (SJPEC) listening session: 09/20/21

- Staffing
 - Persistent vacancies in all areas teachers, custodians, office, substitutes (teachers, instructional aides), outdoor supervision, and nutrition services impacts the school at-large
 - Need more staffing for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing
 - Site administrators are exhausted due to staff shortages
- Outdoor/Indoor spaces
 - Improve or Increase outdoor spaces
 - Provide outdoor covered structures
 - Provide instructional outdoor spaces
 - Increase of outdoor spaces create supervisory staffing issues
 - Provide outdoor tables and space heaters
 - Bad air quality days increase need for indoor spaces with appropriate social distancing
 - Include outdoor areas that may support 1:1, small group learning, or social emotional work
 - Provide space for students in quarantine waiting to be picked up
- COVID-19 testing/vaccines
 - Offer testing at all sites
 - Provide staff training
 - Track testing for modified quarantine

- Expand contract tracing
- Administer vaccines
- Safety
 - Ensure facilities cleanliness
 - Enforcement of mask wearing policy by student (suspension or other consequences)
 - Overcrowded classrooms prevents social distancing
 - District provided disposable masks to enforce mask policy
 - Increase inventory of personal protective equipment
- Facilities
 - Increase touchless water dispensers at schools
 - Request facilities department visit school sites to assist with space planning
 - Increase number of desks at schools
- Mental health and social emotional learning supports
 - Improve site relationships
 - Student behavior challenges evidenced with return to in-person learning
 - Increase presence and visibility on campuses to support positive behavior
 - Improve response to behavior and progressive discipline process at school sites

San Juan Supervisors Association (SJSA) and California School Employees Association (CSEA) listening session: 09/21/21

- Staffing shortages
 - More efficient and expedited hiring processes
 - Increase custodians, bus drivers, nutritional services staff, technology services staff
 - Retain existing staff
 - Hire temporary staff
- Communications
 - Late notifications of COVID-19 positive cases and exposures creates more potential cases and exposures
 - Advertise staff openings
 - Consistent communications from school sites
- Safety
 - Need to keep students and staff healthy to remain in-person
 - Upgrade HVAC systems
 - Outdoor spacing works well in favorable weather but not in inclement weather
- Sustainable systems
 - Workloads are too large for existing staff in all areas
 - Establish workload priorities
 - Staff morale is an issue due to excessive workloads

San Juan Teachers Association (SJTA) listening session: 09/22/21

- Classroom air quality
 - Consistently monitored and maintained filtration systems with MERV 13 filters replaced regularly
 - Functional and responsive classroom climate control (HVAC)
 - Constant and continuous airflow
- Campus cleanliness
 - Classroom cleanliness (trash cans emptied, floors and desks/surfaces cleaned daily, frequent touch points cleaned daily)
- Staffing and sub shortages continue to be a concern
- COVID-19 testing
 - Increase access to testing
 - Consider offering home testing kits to staff who do not need to test, but want to test at home
- Technology capacity
 - Device availability for students out on quarantine

- Chromebooks
- Hotspots

San Juan Youth Voice Advocates (SJYVA) listening session: 09/22/21

- Cleaning & hygiene
 - District provided wipes and sanitizers
 - Require students to use hand sanitizer before entering and exiting classroom
 - Students to wipe down their desk
- Meal logistics
 - Provide designated seating
 - Students should not be allowed to eat indoors since they can not wear masks while eating
- Smaller classes/Outdoor spaces
 - Assists with social distancing
- Masks
 - Enforce mask policy
- COVID-19 testing/Contact tracing
 - Accessibility for COVID-19 testing is an issue
 - More efficient and immediate contact tracing while maintaining student confidentiality

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee (SPAC) meeting: 09/30/21

- Outdoor spaces
 - Bleachers, smaller pod tables, shade structures
 - Covered outdoor spaces for shade/rain protection
- Learning models
 - Provide video lessons
 - Hybrid model
 - Emotional health services and check-ins through virtual options
- Technology
 - UV robots for overnight cleaning
 - Livestream where possible
 - Student devices for quarantined students
 - Expanding access to technology (hotspots, cameras, chromebooks)
- COVID-19 Testing
 - Expanding access to COVID testing for families and volunteers
 - Rapid Testing
 - Making it more public that there is availability
- Air Quality
 - Air purifiers, air filtration, HVAC systems, increase air flow
 - We need a plan to address school closures due to fires

Superintendent Student Advisory Committee (SSAC) meeting: 09/07/21

- Implement a clear mask and social distancing policy
 - Students are not wearing masks in hallways and cafeteria (when not eating)
 - Students are not social distancing. Too many students in the cafeteria socializing.
 - Students are drinking out of water fountains
- Class size
 - Several COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred due to large class sizes
 - Combining classes (PE as example) create too large class sizes
- Substitute staffing
 - Unqualified teacher substitutes lead to more learning loss
 - Inadequate staffing and substitutes
- Increased and improved communications from the district
 - Consistent exposure and quarantine policy needed and enforced
 - Be specific when school calls regarding an exposure. Families with multiple students do not know who was exposed as messages are not specific enough.

- Programs to help students catch up from learning loss
 - Offer Zoom classes for students/teachers in quarantine
 - Offer make-up classes to mitigate learning loss

Talleres Familiares listening session: 09/16/21

- Masks
 - District provided masks
 - Classroom education and reminders on mask wearing importance
- COVID-19 testing
 - On-site testing at all schools
 - Expanded time frame
 - Increased communications for testing locations
- Cleaning and hygiene
 - Provide students with sanitizing wipes
 - Regular cleaning of classrooms, playgrounds, and school sites
 - Site cleaning stations with hand sanitizer, wipes, and masks
- Staffing
 - Increase custodians
 - Increase staff to assist with mask and social distancing enforcement
 - Increase staffing for smaller class sizes
- Technology
 - Allow students to keep their Chromebook and internet hotspots for at-home learning
 - Create a system for students to learn at-home during quarantine (Zoom instruction)