American Rescue Plan (ARP)
Needs Assessment

Over the course of the 2020-21 school year, Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) engaged with students, staff, families and community members about their academic, social-emotional and other needs during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. This process was called a needs assessment. It included a wide variety of research and evaluation methods, including questionnaires, surveys, online forums, focus groups, document review, and analysis of existing data. In total, SPPS received over 11,000 responses as part of this process.

SPPS is receiving $206.9 million in federal funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP). ARP is the last of the federal funding allotments, totaling $334 million, that SPPS is receiving to address long-term student outcomes that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The needs identified in this process will be used to help determine how this funding is spent over the next three years.

Below is a summary of the highest priority needs that were identified by each group:

**STUDENTS**
1. High-quality instruction
2. Strong feeling of welcome, safety, support as an individual and as a member of an ethnic/cultural/racial group and the school community
3. High level of engagement and representation in the classroom

**SCHOOLS**
1. Understanding that different schools have different needs
2. Being flexible and allowing staff to focus

**STAFF**
1. Time
2. Professional expectations for culturally relevant teaching and instruction
3. Partnerships with families and community resources

**FAMILY & COMMUNITY**
1. Consistent safety procedures at school
2. High-quality, engaging education that addresses core learning
3. Racial/ethnic/linguistic representation
4. Acknowledgement of the challenges facing families with children

A summary of the ARP needs assessment is available in English at spps.org/Page/42080. The next opportunity to provide input on SPPS’ plan to respond to these needs will begin later this summer. For more information, visit spps.org/ARP.