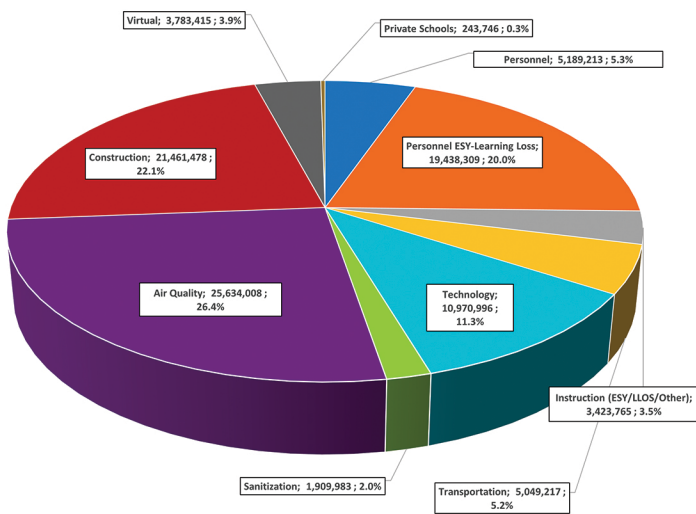


Pandemic Relief Funding: Leveraging Short-Term Federal Funding to Ensure Long-Term Impact

Different Sources, Timelines, and "Strings"

As the pandemic progressed, the federal government's response changed. Actions by Congress included pandemic relief funding (CARES, ESSER, ARP, etc.), each with its own timeline for expenditure and rules for allowable expenses. The graph below includes an aggregate of past expenditures and planned investments to illustrate the priorities established by the School Board to maximize the impact on immediate needs (Health and Safety), our core business (Teaching and Learning), and enduring impact (Capital Investments).

Pandemic Relief Funding – Total Planned Spending



Health & Safety (28.4%)

Establishing healthy and safe environments for students and staff to fully resume in-person learning was the highest priority. Significant investments in Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) equipment, supplementary air purification systems, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and sanitization supplies were made to create the conditions necessary for our students to return to school safely.

Teaching & Learning (49.5%)

Helping students make academic progress during the closure, supporting remote learning as the impacts of the pandemic progressed, and equitably providing every student with the tools necessary to learn anytime and anywhere necessitated investments in technology. Strategic use of pandemic relief funding has enabled every student in Roanoke City Public Schools to have access to a device and, by extension, access to high-quality instruction from almost anywhere. While technological tools are necessary for each student to access their education, the pandemic has proven that caring and committed educators providing in-person instructional experiences are absolutely essential for most students.

Accordingly, federal funds have been invested in additional instructional services for students to provide extended school year opportunities and expanded school day supports to accelerate learning lost during the closure. To mitigate "learning loss", RCPS has budgeted 31% of ESSER III funding, authorized under the American Recovery Plan Act, far exceeding the 20% required for this purpose.

Capital Investments (22.1%)

Healthy environments and addressing learning loss have been at the top of the priority list for RCPS. At the same time, the school division recognized the short-term federal funding appropriated by Congress for schools was at truly unprecedented levels. RCPS turned to its existing planning processes and, specifically, the Equity in Action Plan to identify investments that will provide long-term and enduring benefits for students, families, and the community we serve. Investing \$21.5 million in capital improvements to expand instructional space ensures a significant portion of these short-term federal funds will positively impact our community for generations to come.

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