

# 4 Ways ESSER Funds Have Been Spent in the WCASD

As part of the federal support provided to assist states in their COVID-19 response efforts, Congress established the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. ESSER funds were then distributed to each state and allocated to school districts and charter schools. Since receiving the ESSER funding in the 2020 school year, the West Chester Area School District (WCASD) spent \$6.6 million of the funding to address both immediate pandemic-related needs and long-term district improvements.

## 1 Remote and Cyber Learning \$2.15M

Purchased necessary licenses, online programming, and technology equipment to effectively support virtual learning.



**\$666,000** was spent on laptops, computers, hotspots, and additional technical equipment, and **\$737,000** on remote learning software and supplies.

## 2 Learning Enrichment Opportunities \$2M

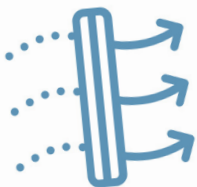
Offered free summer programming, book clubs, and additional tutoring resources for students at the secondary and elementary levels.

ESSER funded summer learning and enrichment programs reached **90%** capacity, and over **700** students took advantage of ESSER funded tutoring services.



## 3 Safety and Cleaning Materials

Bought personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, and furniture for all district buildings in addition to enhancing routine cleaning procedures.



Increased the replacement rate of air filters in all district buildings from quarterly to **monthly**.

**\$1.7M**

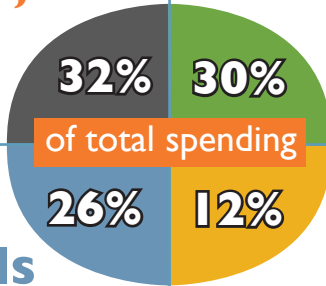
## 4 Mental Health Support

Hired and contracted additional specialists and staff as well as conducted trainings to address student needs.

WCASD currently has a team of **12** faculty and staff members dedicated to assisting students with mental health concerns, **3** of which are paid for with ESSER funding.



**\$799K**



# 4 Planned Spending Areas for ESSER Funds in the WCASD

As part of the federal support provided to assist states in their COVID-19 response efforts, Congress established the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. ESSER funds were then distributed to each state and allocated to school districts and charter schools. The WCASD plans to spend the remaining \$3 million of the district's ESSER funds over the course of the 2023 and 2024 school years. All ESSER funds must be spent by September 30, 2024 per grant requirements.

## 1 Safety and Cleaning Materials \$2.4M

Budgeted funds to complete much needed HVAC installation and restoration projects.

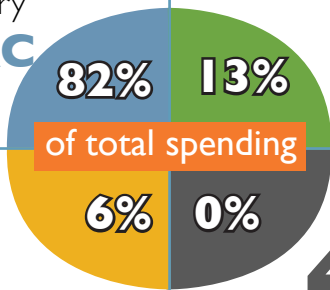
As part of Glen Acres Elementary School's renovations, a **new HVAC system**



will be installed while Westtown-Thornbury Elementary School benefits from **HVAC restoration.**

## 2 Learning Enrichment Opportunities \$374K

Plan for continued offerings of summer programming, tutoring programs, and additional resources for students at the secondary and elementary levels.



## 3 Mental Health Supports

Maintain roles for hired and contracted specialists and staff as well as conduct additional trainings to address student needs.



Mental health and prevention trainings are scheduled for all **17** WCASD school buildings to grow staff's understand of strategies and techniques for assisting students.

164K

## 4 Remote and Cyber Learning

There is no planned or budgeted spending using ESSER funds for remote and cyber learning materials or resources.



\$0



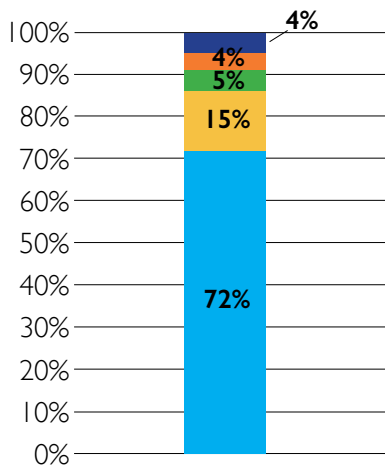
# Impact of ESSER Funding on Learning Opportunities

To close gaps that arose for students as a result of the pandemic, the WCASD spent roughly \$2 million in ESSER funds over the last two school years. Through these funds, the district offered research-based activities such as free summer programming, book clubs, and additional tutoring resources for students. Students involved in these programs not only show an improvement in testing scores, but their families also noted a better retention of academic skills.

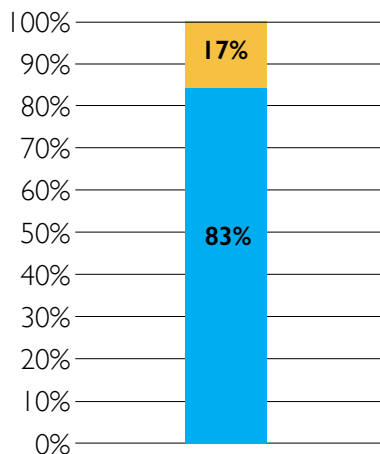
## Which WCASD Students Benefited Directly From ESSER Funded Programs?

ESSER Funded programs to encourage learning opportunities following the pandemic were open to all WCASD students and families in the summer of 2021. In the summer of 2022, the WCASD focused on supporting those students shown to be most in need of additional learning opportunities. In 2021, **1,639** students participated in summer programming.

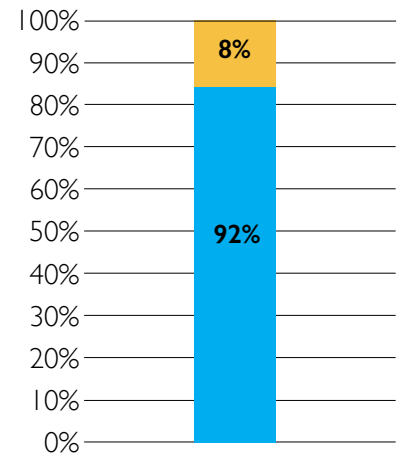
Student Participation by Ethnicity



Students with Disabilities Participation



Economically Disadvantage Student Participation



- Caucasian
- Multi-Racial
- Asian
- African American
- Hispanic

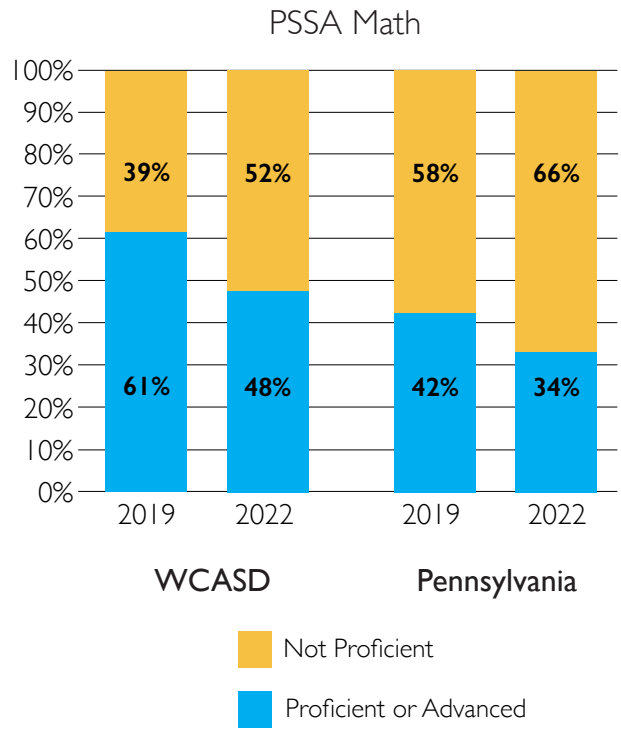
- Participated
- Did Not Participate

- Participated
- Did Not Participate

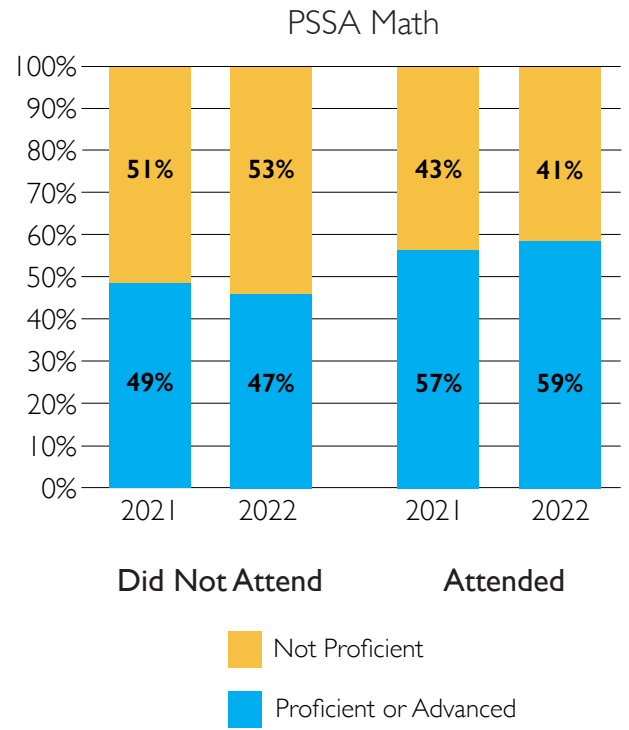


# Impact of ESSER Funding on Learning Opportunities

### District and State Level Comparison of the Pandemic's Impact on Student Achievement

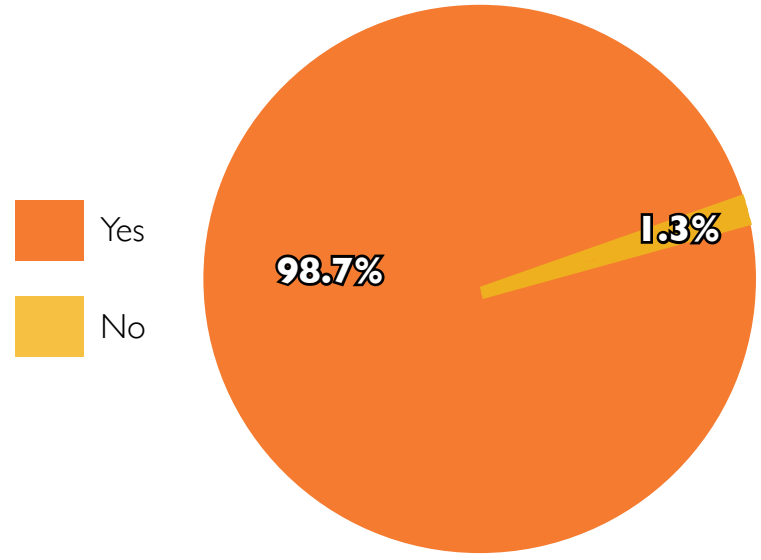


### Percentage of Tested Students by Proficiency Attended ESSER Funded Summer 2021 Program



## Summer Programming Responses

Do you feel that your child's summer learning experience maintained his or her academic skills?



### Parent Comments:

"My girls loved the summer program and are so sad that it's ending! They were definitely hesitant about attending school over the summer, but quickly determined that they really enjoyed their teachers and friends."

"All of the staff did an awesome job! We appreciate that the district offers this as an opportunity for students, especially keeping the cost free so all can access. Thank you again for all you have done to make this happen."

