



# LEAPing Forward

Our Vision for the 21-22 School Year

Providence  
Schools

#girlgenius

# We made a lot of progress this year re-envisioning our schools...



- Implemented at all elementary and middle schools unified, culturally relevant, **gold-standard core curricula**



- Created new options for families through inclusive efforts to **redesign our highest-needs schools**



- Launched the first **dual-language middle school** offering in Providence's history at Gilbert Stuart Middle
- Created **rich new career and technical education (CTE) pathways** aligned to high-wage RI industries – at JSEC, PCTA, and E-Cubed



- Launched **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy model** at Alvarez High School



# And supporting our teachers, students and families.

- **Reduced teaching vacancies** substantially in 2020
- Nearly **doubled the percent of teachers of color hired**
- Required teacher participation in **Parent Teacher Conferences**
- Built a **rapid response tool** and a team dedicated to resolving families' issues
- Enriched **Parent Academy** with new offerings, including distance learning support
- Provided every school leader with consistent **1:1 coaching**
- Radically increased **job-embedded professional learning for teachers and leaders**



# We've already made big plans for the 21-22 school year...

- Offering PPSD Summer Learning to all students in grades 1-12.
- Changing our approach to staffing to better meet the needs of our students after feedback from the community
  - Hiring **36 community specialists** in our middle and high schools
  - Bringing **counselors** to elementary schools
- Implementing a new, **rigorous 9-12 curriculum**
- Doubling the number of high-quality state **PreK classrooms**
- Spending \$3.4M to ensure teachers are paid for all **five professional development days** before the school year starts



# We're making a commitment...



..to our students...



...families...



...and teachers:

**2021-2022 will not be a return to normal.  
It will be the start of a new experience  
at Providence Schools.**

# Returning to full in person learning every day. Safely.

- PPSD will continue to follow all public health and safety guidance from the CDC, Department of Health and RIDE.
- We anticipate a full return to in-person learning this fall. PK-12 students will be in-school, every day.
- To ensure school is safe, we are investing in:
  - Weekly testing for all students
  - All CDC recommended PPE, including masks
  - All RIDOH recommended guidance for transportation and classroom safety

# Using our stimulus dollars over the next 2+ years for maximum impact.

- PPSD is set to receive roughly **\$180M** from the last two stimulus bills. We have more than two years to spend all these dollars.
- That's a significant influx of cash, but to put it in perspective, it equals roughly:
  - **\$7.5K per student**
  - **Less than half of our FY21 operating budget** (\$410M)
  - **Half of our five-year capital improvement plan** (\$300M)
- There are federal limitations on **how** we can spend this money. At a high level, we can use these funds to:
  - Address the impact of COVID-19 on our students' learning.
  - Address the social and emotional needs of our students as a result of COVID-19.
  - Ensure safety as related to the pandemic.

# Our Framework for Sustainability



Avoid expenditures that will be a long-term cost burden



Align spending to the turnaround action plan and long-term district priorities



Fund projects that reflect the priorities of teachers, students, parents and families, community leaders, and community partners and agencies



Avoid programs, projects and positions that we will have to cut after a period of time



# We've outlined areas of focus based on previous community feedback.

PROGRAM	GOAL
<p><b>Student-centered facility upgrades</b></p>	<p>Upgrade campuses to make students excited to return to school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We've asked every principal for a wish list of 3 impactful, low-cost facility projects to be completed before we return to school this fall.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Second and third year TAP priorities</b></p>	<p>Invest in the second and third year priorities the community laid out in the TAP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We're hiring guidance counselors at elementary schools to better support social and emotional learning for students and staff.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Boost Grants</b></p>	<p>Support home-grown ideas from our PPSD community and teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We're offering grants to educators and members of the community to fund small, high-impact projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>COVID Safety</b></p>	<p>Keep students and staff safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We anticipate needing to continue purchasing PPE, etc.</li> </ul>

# Long-term, our focus is on Learning, Equity, and Accelerated Pathways for Students

We have an opportunity and an obligation to think bigger and better – not only about next year, but about the future of PPSD.

1. Create truly innovative, exciting learning experiences for all students.
2. Target academic programs for our highest need students.
3. Provide social-emotional supports for all students and staff.
4. Raise expectations for all students.
5. Ensure sustainability to make a long-term impact.

# We need to innovate for our students.

How can we innovate to overcome the crisis and meet the needs of all of our students and families?

## What the Data Tells Us

- We need to make students excited about school to combat chronic absenteeism. **60% of PPSD students chronically absent this April, compared to 37% last year.**
- Only **55% of PPSD students** in grades 6-12 feel like their school has rigorous expectations.
- Opportunity Myth shows us that when students are challenged, they rise to the occasion.

## What Research Tells Us

- **Summer academies accelerate student learning**
- Purposeful extracurricular opportunities increase student attendance and engagement
- Advanced learning courses open doors of opportunity
- Providing afterschool opportunities to improve grades and make up credits boosts graduation rates

# We need to innovate for our students.

- What types of innovative learning experiences would increase student and family engagement?





# We need to target academic programs to the students who need them most.


## What the Data Tells Us

- Special education students, multi-lingual learners and chronically absent students receive significantly lower scores in math and reading than their peers
- The gap is even greater for students who fall into more than one identified student group

## What Research Tells Us

- **Small group tutoring for ninth grade math**
- Increase language immersion opportunities
- Increased certifications and professional learning for educators
- Gifted and talented
- Advisory and enrichment programs targeted to certain groups of students
- Field trips and out-of-school experiences





**We need to target academic programs.**

- What initiatives would you focus on to support these identified groups of student learners?

# We need to support the social-emotional health of students and staff.

How can we help students and staff mentally and emotionally recover from the pandemic?

## What the Data Tells Us

- Emergency room visits due to mental health emergencies rose 24% for children last year
- Kids Link, Rhode Island's behavioral health hotline for kids, saw a 22% increase in calls in 2020
- In a national survey last year, 85% of teachers said that their mental health is worse than a year ago

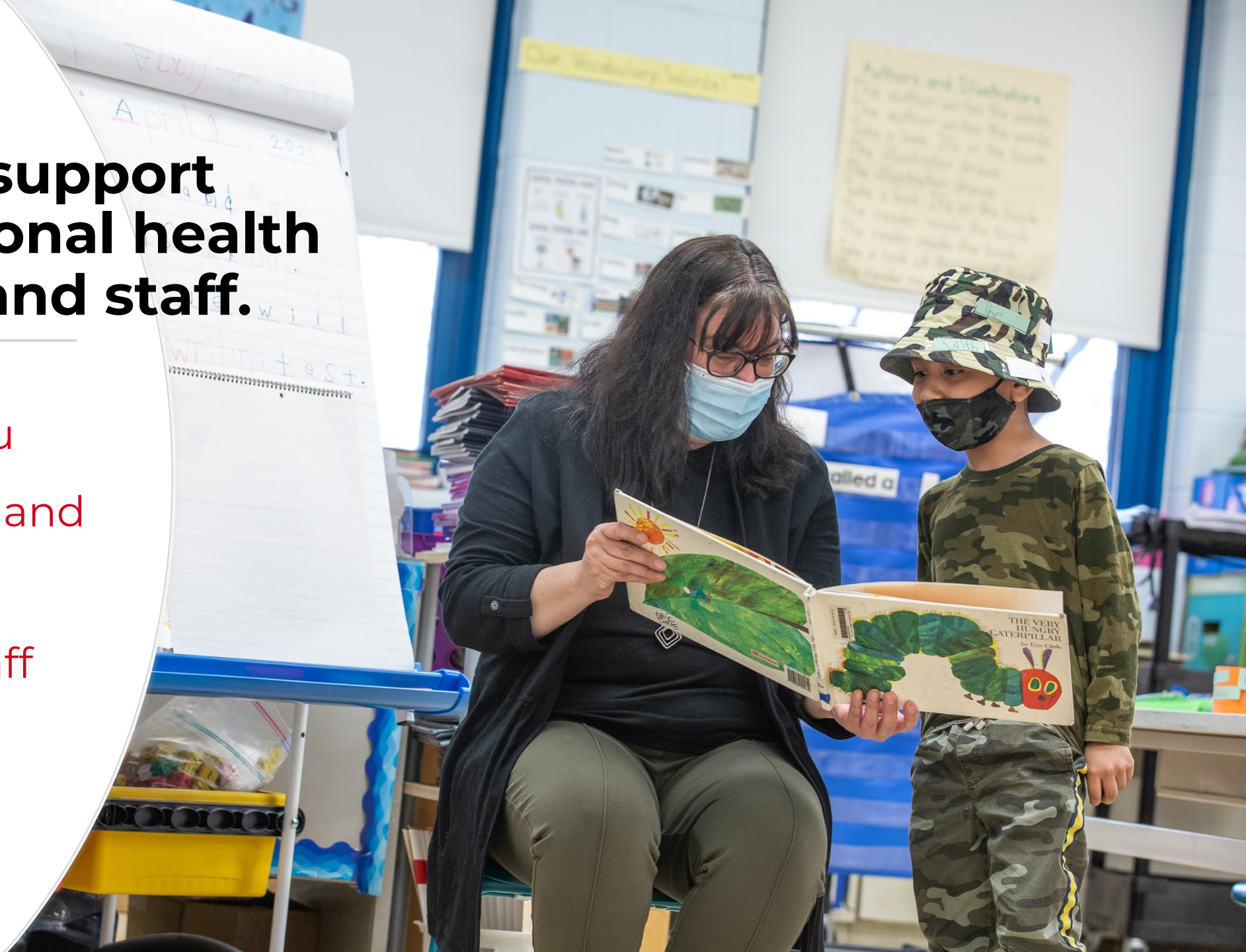
## What Research Tells Us

- **Counselors in elementary**
- Make social and emotional learning a focus early
- Focus on restorative practices
- Supporting social and emotional learning through curriculum and resources
- Mentoring programs
- Grief/trauma/loss programming for students and staff
- Professional learning for staff



# We need to support social-emotional health of students and staff.

- How would you invest in social and emotional learning for staff and students?



# We need to support our families.

- **Parent Academy:**

- Social and emotional support for families
- Technology support for distance learning and new curriculum
- Supporting family needs during the pandemic

- **Plans for next year:**

- Partnership with CCRI to give families opportunities to earn college credit and workforce development certificates

# We need to raise expectations for all students.

- We cannot afford to:
  - Lower the floor and focus on remediation
  - Try the same approaches that have failed in the past
- We do need to:
  - Raise the ceiling by providing more opportunities for our students
  - Think big about how we can use this funding to change the way people—current students, prospective students, potential employees and school leaders—think about PPSD



# Next steps: Please fill out our survey!

We look forward to continuing this conversation and providing additional updates after reviewing your input.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7XN9Y37>