

Fast Facts: CARES Act Survey 2020

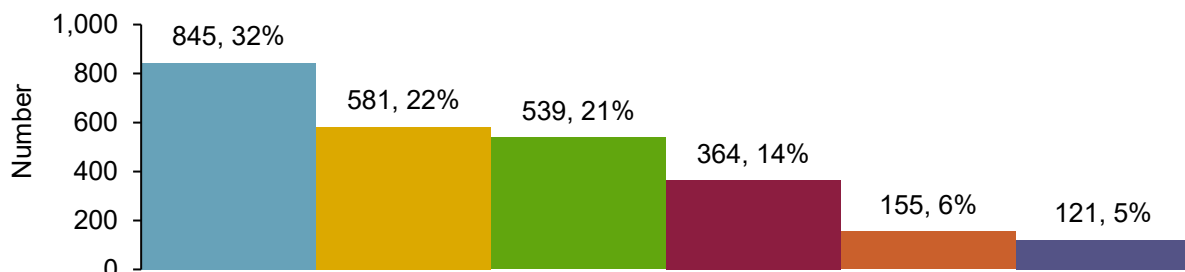
In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, was signed into law. The bill dedicated \$13.2 billion for K-12 schools through the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund (ESSERF). Houston Independent School District (HISD) was eligible to apply for ESSERF grant funds under the CARES Act. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) released the entitlements for HISD under the CARES Act, ESSERF. These are not additional funds to HISD, they are being used to offset the loss of average daily attendance (ADA) through the Foundation School Program (FSP) under Texas school finance. The CARES Act, ESSERF grant funds application must be submitted to TEA by Monday, August 24, 2020. HISD's entitlement for CARES Act, ESSERF, is projected to be \$81,721,075. The public had the opportunity to provide feedback on how the district utilizes ESSERF grant funds allocated under the CARES Act. The survey was posted on June 26, 2020 and closed on July 10, 2020. The survey questions and responses to the questions are provided in this report.

The total number of surveys completed was n=2,605, with parents completing n=1,895 (73%) surveys and community members completing n=710 (27%) surveys.

In your opinion, how should HISD prioritize the utilization of CARES Act funds as they relate to student supports? Please rank the following programs. (From "highest priority" = 1 to "lowest priority" = 6)

- According to **Figure 1**, priority for the utilization of CARES Act funds should be on 'addressing the unique needs of low-income children or students...' (n=845, 32%), followed by 'purchasing technology (for students)...' (n=581, 22%).
- The lowest number and percentage of respondents was for the 'planning for and implementing a summer program...' (n=121, 5%).

Figure 1. The reported priority for the utilization of 2020 CARES Act funds for student programs



■ Address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness and foster students including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population in HISD.

■ Purchasing technology devices and the internet for HISD students.

■ Provide HISD principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.

■ Support federally funded programs such as Special Education, Title I, and Career and Technical Education in HISD.

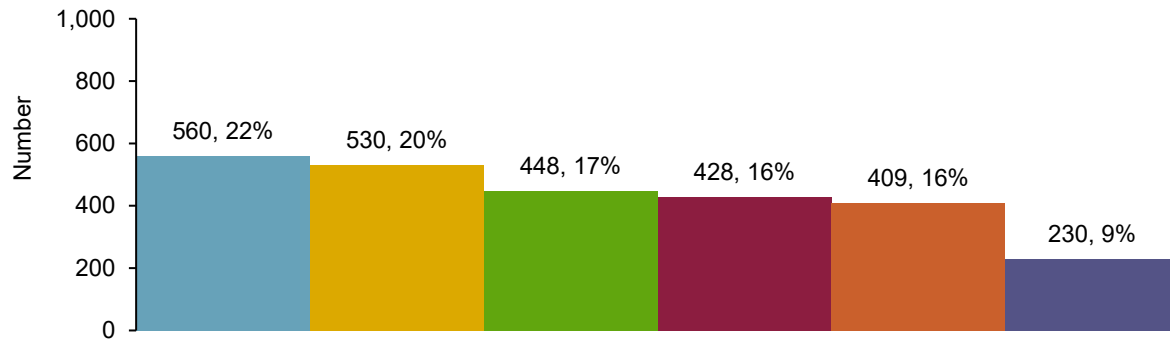
■ Providing mental health services and support to HISD students.

■ Planning for and implementing a summer program for HISD students.

In your opinion, how should HISD prioritize the utilization of CARES Act funds as they relate to the district COVID-19 response? Please rank the following programs. (From "highest priority" = 1 to "lowest priority" = 6)

- According to **Figure 2**, priority for the utilization of CARES Act funds should be on 'work(ing) with local agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus...' (n=560, 22%), followed by "planning for and operating during long term closures..." (n=530, 20%).
- The lowest number and percentage of respondents was for the 'training and professional development of staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases...' (n=230, 9%).

Figure 2. The reported priority for the utilization of 2020 CARES Act funds to support COVID-19



- Work with local agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
- Planning for and operating during long term closures.
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean facilities.
- Other activities to continue to employ existing staff and maintain the operation of services to keep the district open and providing support to HISD students and families.
- Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of HISD.
- Training and professional development of staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.