

# **Strategic Resource Allocation in Response to COVID-related Learning Loss: Key Considerations for Vermont Policymakers**

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# Three Key Considerations for Strategically Allocating Resources

1. **Leverage flexibility** in how **existing** federal and state special education funds can be used to serve **all** students
2. **Prioritize & strengthen existing systems** and **programs** to provide supports to students
3. **Target new resources** toward providing support in locations and for students who are **most in need**

# Leverage Flexibility in How Existing Funds are Used

- **Leverage flexibility** in how **existing** federal and state special education funds can be used to serve **all** students.

## Key Considerations:

- Move forward with Act 173 implementation
- Ensure guidance promulgated by AOE for allowable use in federal/state special education dollars is consistent with allocating federal and state funds for broader use in supporting students
- Encourage use of federal IDEA funding as a source of support for early intervening services for non-disabled students (e.g., CEIS funds)
- Coordinate & consolidate criteria for eligibility and funds use across federal/state programs

# Prioritize/Strengthen Existing Systems and Programs

- **Prioritize & strengthen existing systems and programs** to provide supports to students

Key considerations:

- Reinforce the importance of implementing comprehensive Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in districts/schools
- Leverage and expand existing programs to provide supplemental academic services through Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) in public schools (i.e., harness the capacity of the existing federally-funded 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Center program)

## Target New Resources

- **Target new resources** toward providing support in **locations** and for **students** who are **most in need**.

Key considerations:

- Recognize that not all schools and students have been equally affected & target new (and where possible, existing) resources according to need

## **Resources/Policy Briefs Published by the National Conference for State Legislatures**

- **Special Education Funding: Three Critical Moves State Policymakers Can Make to Maintain Funding & Bolster Performance** (Doutre & Kolbe, 2020) [https://www.wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Special\\_Education\\_Funding\\_Policy\\_Perspectives.pdf](https://www.wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Special_Education_Funding_Policy_Perspectives.pdf)
- **Loosening the Reins: Evidence & Considerations for Lifting Restrictions on Resources for Schools** (Willis, Tanner & Silverstein, 2020) <https://www.wested.org/resources/loosening-the-reins/>