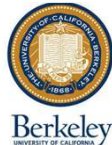


Recovery and Renewal

California School Districts [Variably] Bounce Back

- How have districts spent federal stimulus and new state dollars – emerging from the pandemic?
- What common strategies are employed across districts to lift learning and students' broader well-being?
- How do budget priorities vary among districts, including organizational and pedagogical innovations?

A three-year study funded by the U.S. Department of Education



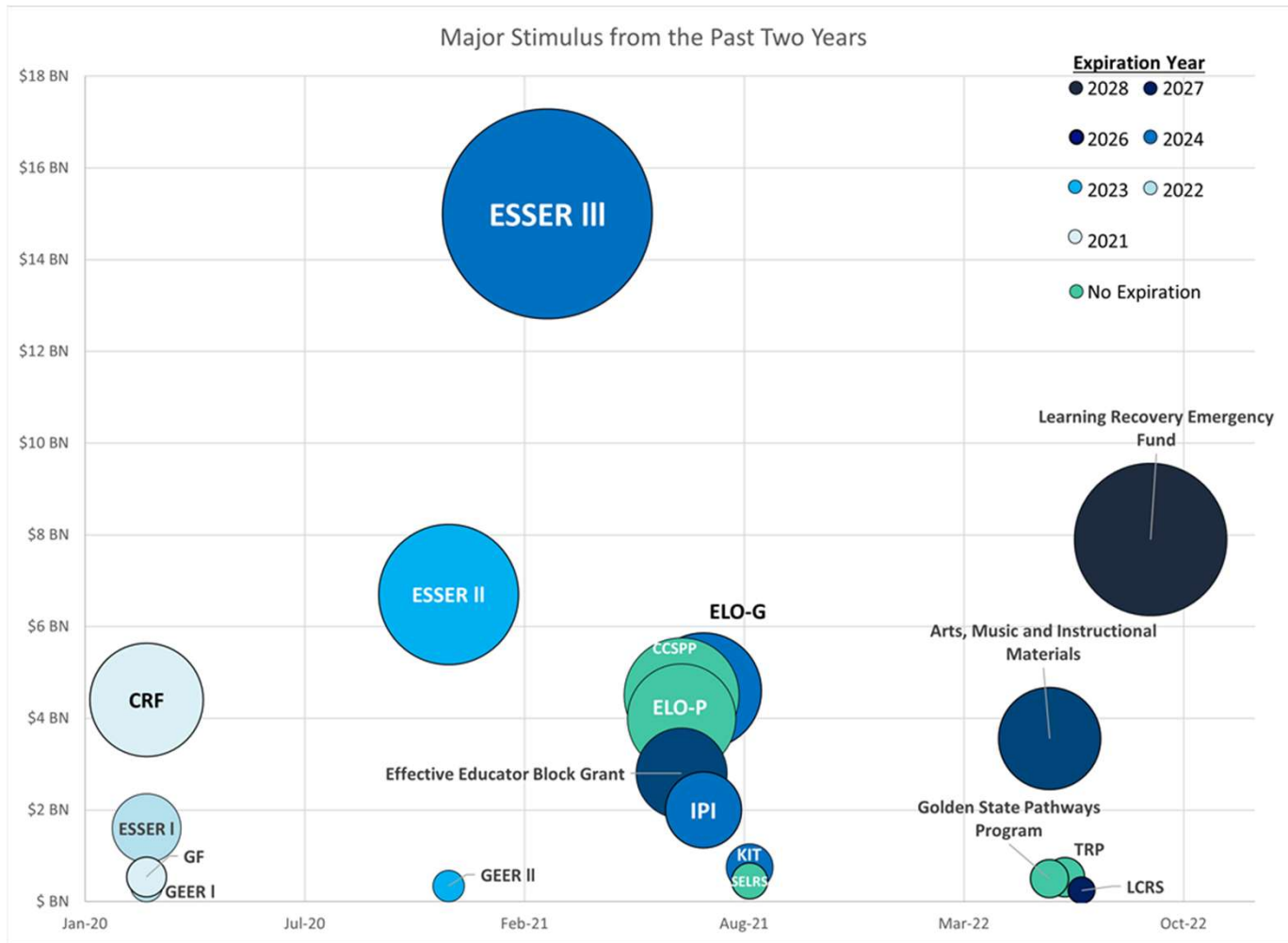
PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

UC San Diego



Diminishing infusions of federal dollars, continuing state categorical aid

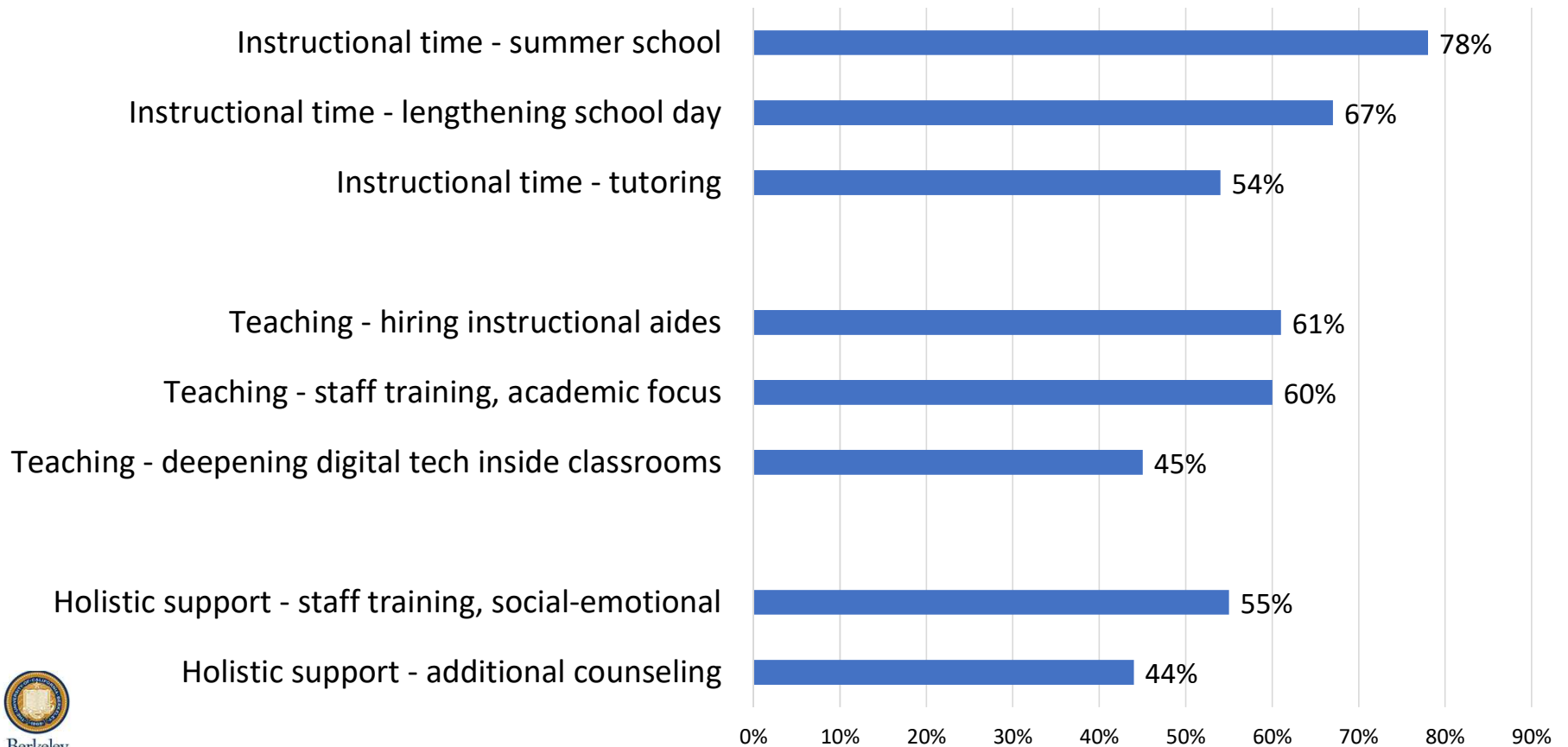


ESSER III = \$15b
 ELO-G/P = \$7b
 Learning Recovery = \$8b
 Community Schools = \$5b
 Arts-Music = \$4b
 Educator Effectiveness = \$3b

Most common budget and program strategies among 726 districts

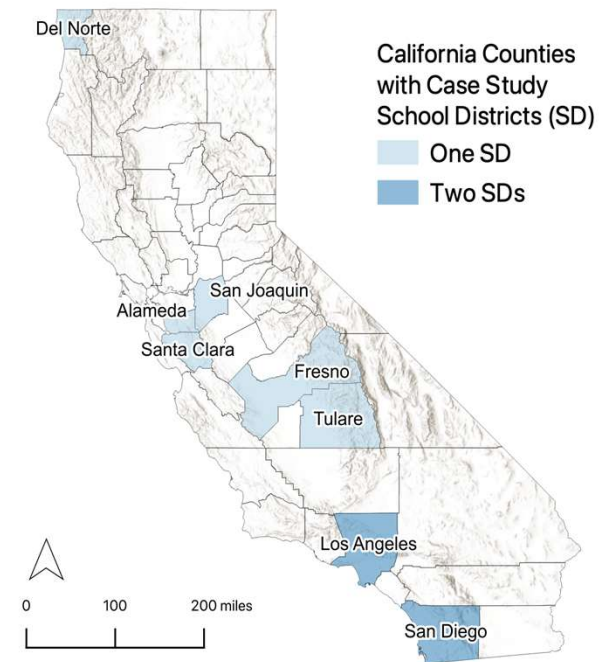
[from ELO-G plans]

Percentage of districts reporting budget or program activity



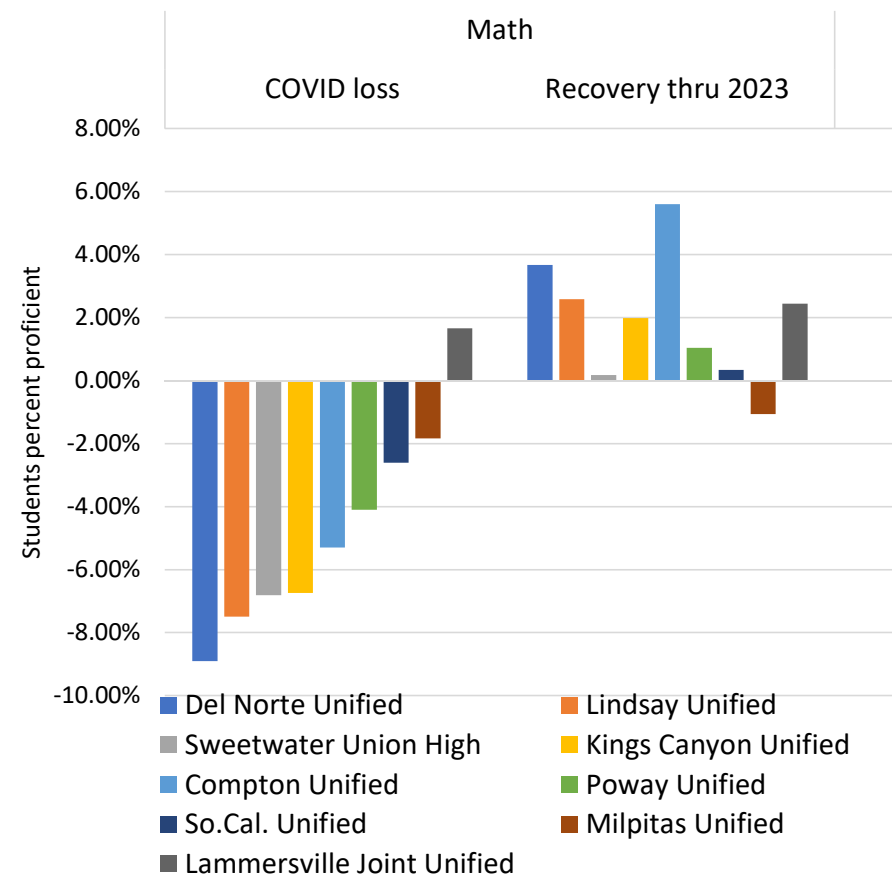
Shared challenges and strategies across nine case-study districts [field work, 2021 to 2023]

- ❑ Slipping enrollments, persisting absenteeism.
- ❑ Labor shortages, now paring back classified staff.
- ❑ New funding with a return to categorical programs [requires classroom and after-school aides].
- ❑ Program triage: State programs, contracting out, the ‘costly plan-demic’.
- ❑ A varying balance between learning recovery and building [staffing for] firm social-emotional scaffolds.



Districts also vary in strategies deployed to renew schools, regain a collective spirit

- Strengthening district's fiscal footing.
- Adapting to a shifting funding context – new categoricals, equity multiplier, Medical funding.
- Segmented add-ons versus 'push-in' model, enriching ties between student and adults.
- Digital innovations, student engagement in classrooms.
- Preserving local budget flexibility – adapting to differing contexts, varying program innovations.



Stay tuned for detailed report this spring...

- Uneven learning recovery among differing student groups – implications for progressivity of LCFF.
- Which district strategies predict robust bounce-back in pupil learning and well-being.
- How district leaders deliberate and set budget priorities... central and school-level origins of promising innovations.
- Do new state categoricals constrain or enhance district priorities, and enrich student engagement? Persisting labor shortages with modest layoffs?

