



# SOAR Stakeholder Session

FFY 2016 Budget

Oct. 20, 2016 | Office of Public Charter School Financing & Support



# Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Goal and format
- III. Initial clarifications based on comments
- IV. Survey results
- V. Other comments
- VI. Discussion



# Goal and Format

- The survey highlighted areas of consensus and areas that need further discussion. The goal is to get additional feedback in those areas.
- We will review the survey results in full before asking for feedback in specific areas.
  - Please note: While all survey comments are included or addressed in the slide deck, we will not cover each comment slide in detail.



# Initial Clarifications Based on Comments

- This proposal does not impact SOAR grants that were awarded in August. This is strictly for future SOAR grants.
- Adult students attending charter LEAs are included in the proposal to allocate SOAR funds primarily on a per-pupil basis.
- The Early Childhood Grant is not competitive. It is allocated to school serving pre-K 3 and pre-K 4 students based on the Title I eligibility formula.
- The use of SOAR facilities funds is no longer limited to former District-owned buildings. That requirement was removed last year and was not in place for the summer 2016 competition. The only remaining limitation is on non-District leased space.

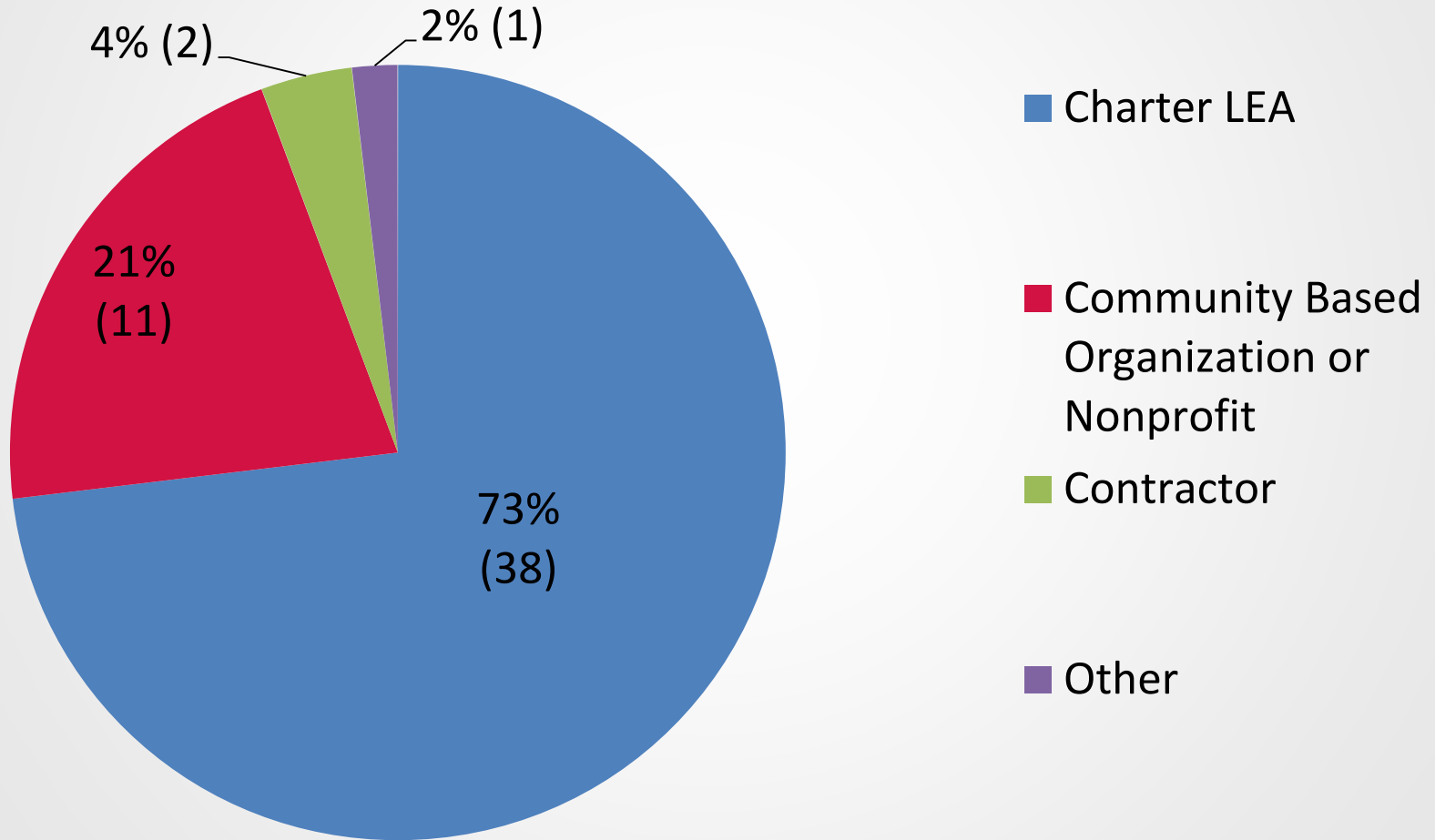


# Survey Results



# Who responded to the survey?

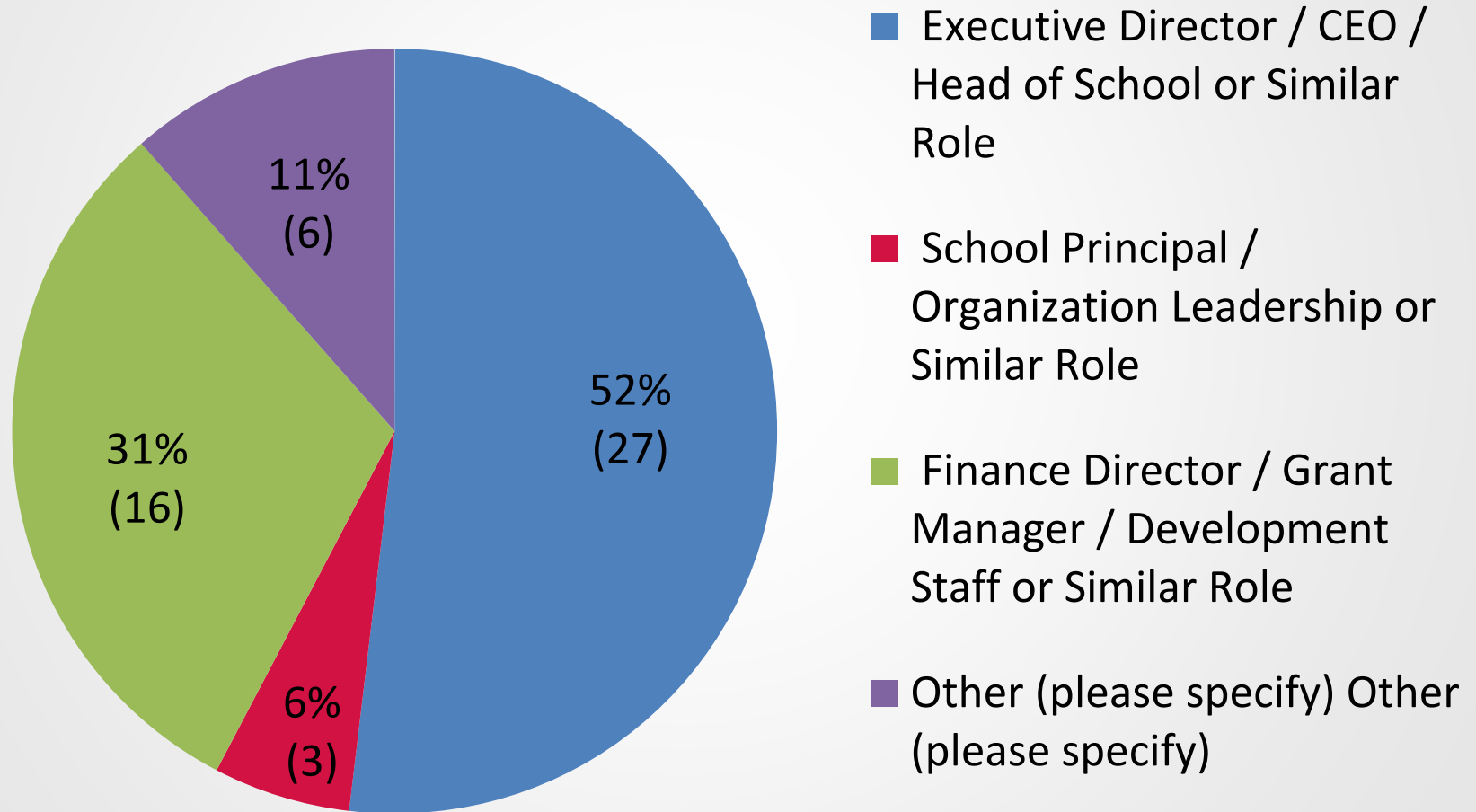
Almost 3/4 of respondents were affiliated with charter LEAs.





# Who responded to the survey?

More than ½ of respondents were organizational leaders.



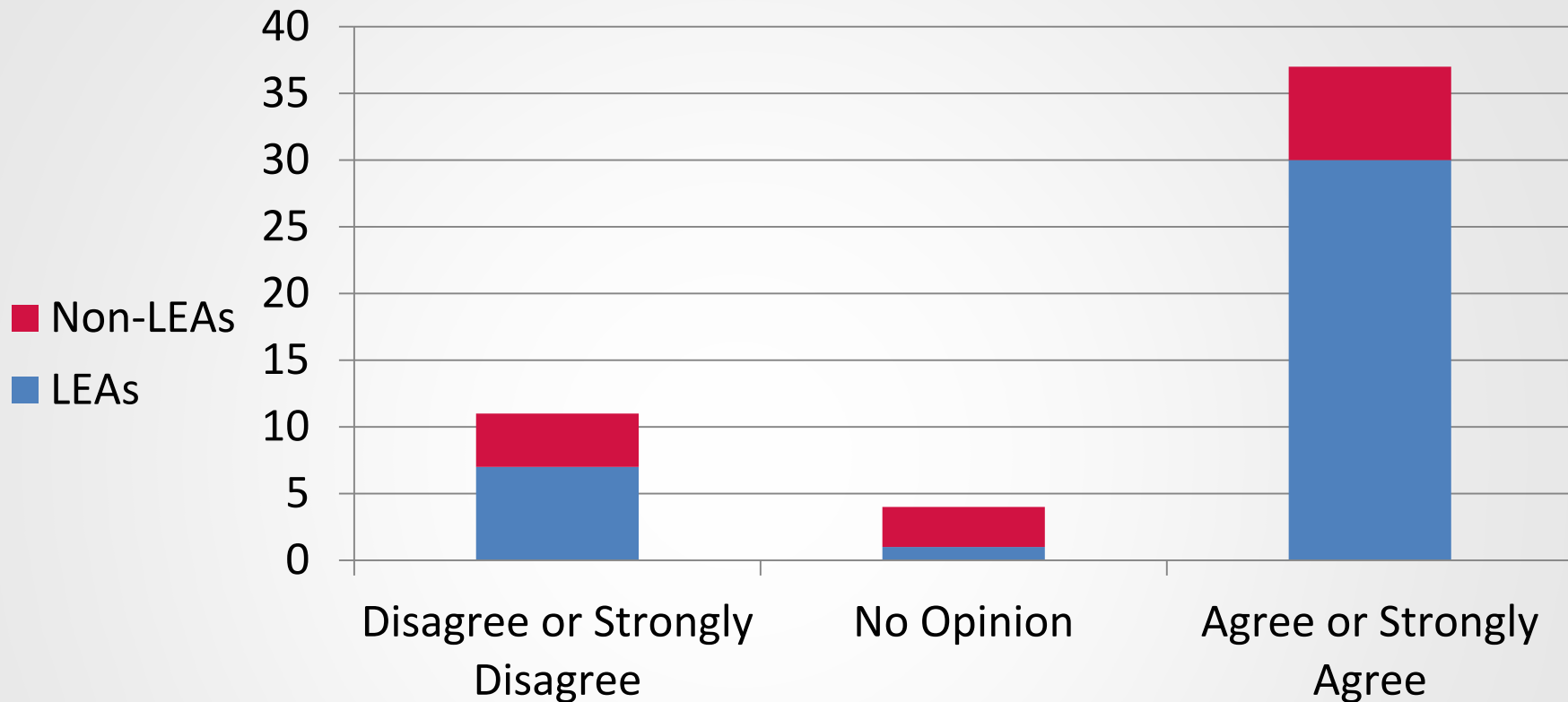


# Formula Funding





## Q1. Do you agree that a substantial portion of the SOAR funds should be allocated on a per-pupil basis each year?



	Disagree or Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Agree or Strongly Agree
LEAs (38)	18% (7)	3% (1)	79% (30)
Non-LEAs (14)	29% (4)	21% (3)	50% (7)
All Responses (52)	21% (11)	8% (4)	72% (37)



# LEA Comments – Formula Funding

## **Strongly Agree**

- SOAR funds to improve academic quality should not be based on a competitive grant process, but distributed in a way so all charters LEAs can access.

## **Agree**

- There is always an "equity" issue of new versus old schools and big versus small schools. Allocating some portion of the SOAR funding on a per pupil basis is reasonable to support all schools in sustaining their theories of action.
- While I generally agree with the perspective of allocating funding based on a per-pupil basis, one downside of changing from a competitive grant to a formula-based one is that lower performing schools will automatically be allocated funding. With the competitive process, funding could be more reflective of high-quality applications and providers.



# LEA Comments – Formula Funding

## **Agree, cont.**

- Yes, this would be a more stable stream of funding and could support an innovative project over a longer timeline. If there is to be a weighting, I think it should be weighted towards successful (Tier 1 or high Tier 2) schools and not have a weighting based on subgroup count (e.g., Title I and IDEA seem to be trending towards weighting on At Risk). I do like some competitive grant application opportunities, perhaps a proportion?



# LEA Comments – Formula Funding

## **Strongly Disagree**

- Schools that have only been in operation for 1 to 5 years may have a lot less pupil (and per pupil funding); however, those schools may need a lot more support to continue to thrive (in order to continue to build the capacity of teachers, etc.).
- The DC charter sector includes charter schools/LEAs that serve adult students. These adult students must count in the per pupil allotment for a school.

## **Disagree, cont.**

- We think that a substantial portion of the SOAR funds should be competitive so that funds are specifically used to improve Opportunity and Results for students.
- Allocation of funds should be based on socioeconomic status of student enrollments.



# LEA Comments – Formula Funding

## Disagree, cont.

- I have experienced both systems in the past and have mixed feelings about both. Unfortunately, the burden of managing the funds does not seem to decrease for LEAs in either allocation method. So, the real question is how difficult we find the application process. For our LEA, we manage it quite well and have been successful for the past several years. [F]unding on the formula level will have us seeing a decrease in available funds due to our size. On the whole, I understand trying to use the funds to "raise all ships," but feel that if schools cannot write a proposal demonstrating a thoughtful approach to spending the funds, the school will likely not be able to follow that approach in a formula funding model either. Given that our school stands to lose funds, I would disagree with moving to a per-pupil basis or, at least, retain some portion for increasing academic quality on a competitive basis.



# Non-LEA Comments – Formula Funding

## **Strongly Agree**

- The method(s) for requesting applications for these Federal funds, and for determining accountability, must be carefully thought through, explained, and agreed-to before the new processes begin.
- The overwhelming majority of the funds should provide direct benefits to students and OSSE should consider increasing the LEA allocation.



# Non-LEA Comments – Formula Funding

## **Disagree**

- The proposal to shift the distribution of the majority of funds to charter LEAs to a per-pupil formula might simplify the funding process, but potentially rewards quantity of quality. Access to funding should be earned and based on evidence of effectiveness, innovative ideas and thoughtful planning.
- It seems likely that some charters may not have the capacity to implement additional projects; in general, it seems that having a competitive component will make for better outcomes and better overall use of funds rather than to fund things that are already ongoing or are basic functions of schools if the purpose of the grants is to spur new supports/programs.

## **Strongly Disagree**

- I understand that OSSE and LEA leaders want to ensure that all charter LEAs would be able to access and use SOAR funds to improve outcomes for students, but it seems that this would reward weaker applications and hurt LEAs with stronger applications.

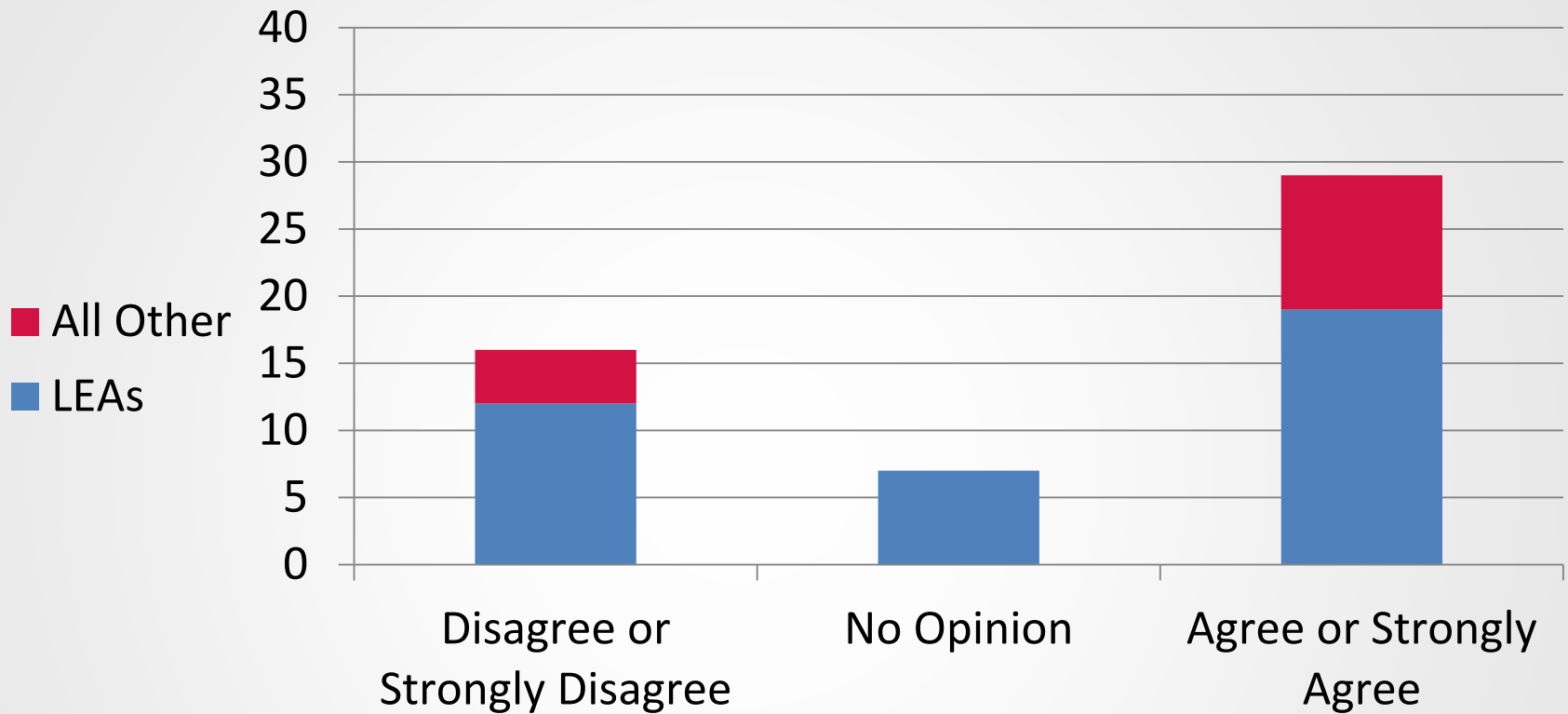


# Third Party Grants





## Q2. Do you agree that a \$2.5 million competitive third-party grant, with a focus on teacher pipeline projects, should be included?



	Disagree or Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Agree or Strongly Agree
LEAs (38)	32% (12)	18% (7)	50% (19)
Non-LEAs (14)	29% (4)	0% (0)	71% (10)
All Responses (52)	31% (16)	13% (7)	56% (29)



# LEA Comments – \$2.5M Third Party

## **Strongly Agree**

- If the pipeline has the potential to benefit a large number of schools and LEAs I would be open to putting an even greater amount of funding behind the plan. This is a MAJOR challenge for our city and is only going to get more difficult. 2.5 million seems insufficient to address the challenge.

## **Agree**

- I agree with the idea of prioritizing efforts to support processes that incentivize and prepare qualified individuals to enter teaching through fellowship and residency programs. Depending on the market, there are cases to be made for specialized grades, like Early Learning or high-demand subject areas like mathematics. I would argue for broad eligibility for project developers. I would also argue for projects with strong DC-based roots and leadership.



# LEA Comments – \$2.5M Third Party

## Agree, cont.

- While I think I agree, but I have a lot of questions about this and I am not sure how this focus was selected. My concern with this would be that one or two LEAs are trying to garner funds for their specific teacher residency programs. The structure and requirements of the grant should not be so narrow that only a few programs or LEAs are eligible or likely to apply and serve as partners.
- However I would strongly suggest that the criteria for the competitive grant consider more than Tier status and consider the schools that NEED teacher pipelines most (i.e., smaller, single site LEAs as opposed to larger CMOs that already get millions in private and philanthropic dollars)



# LEA Comments – \$2.5M Third Party

## Strongly Disagree

- While supporting 3rd party organizations is important, there should be more attention paid to whether these funds are just sustaining poorly organized institutions. I am familiar with several organizations that have gotten this funding in the past that offered nearly no benefit to the education community. I would hope that additional school leaders could review the applications to determine what aspects of the awards are actually a benefit- especially if the tradeoff is to have less funds available for schools. I would also prefer to see this line decreased to support MySchoolsDC and have them compete for the funds rather than be guaranteed funding.
- Remove 3rd party - give funding to students. Funding is not impacting student outcomes for 3rd parties. Reduce or eliminate this funding.
- There should be money allocated for teacher pipeline projects, but the funding should go to LEAs with optional partnerships with third-party providers.
- Money should come to schools.



# LEA Comments – \$2.5M Third Party

## Disagree

- Would prefer more funds directly to LEAs, or potentially to LEA-LEA partnerships for direct services to students or capacity building to serve students.
- I agree that third party organizations should be supported. However, there are many critical supports needed in addition to teacher pipeline projects. Why restrict the focus?
- Not sure how this will directly impact all schools.
- It should be included but not competitive.

## No Opinion

- Ideally this would go to schools and they could choose the 3rd party operators they want to work with. That being said, I think it's funded some good programs that would have struggled to get off the ground otherwise.



# Non-LEA Comments – \$2.5M Third Party

## Strongly Agree

- Independent SOAR support of third party organizations enables them to provide effective services to charters who otherwise cannot afford third party services due to negative economies of scale.
- As long as there is still funding to grow capacity for teachers who are currently in the system.

## Agree

- Segmenting the monies to target specific areas within the teacher leadership development pipeline will ensure programming is implemented to support teachers throughout the continuum.
- Investment in teacher pipeline is critical and should be included. If the \$2.5 million is "just" for teacher pipeline projects, that might not meet all LEAs needs and then in that case, I do not agree with question 2, but I would strongly support question 3 in awarding an additional \$1 million for teacher pipeline.



# Non-LEA Comments – \$2.5M Third Party

## Strongly Disagree

- If the Third Party grant as a whole will be shifted to support a teacher pipeline, then I don't agree. If one million will be added to the third party grant and will be dedicated to the teacher pipeline, then I might agree. There aren't many funding sources that allow afterschool or extra-curricular activities for charter school students in the afternoon. It seems that all major supporters of school of choice and the charter movement are focusing on teachers' development, day school innovative practices and nothing related to afterschool. The result is that either the schools manage their budget to include the afterschool program, or teachers volunteer, or corporations run the programs at a cost to the families. We need more funding sources for closing the opportunity gap, not less.



# Non-LEA Comments – \$2.5M Third Party

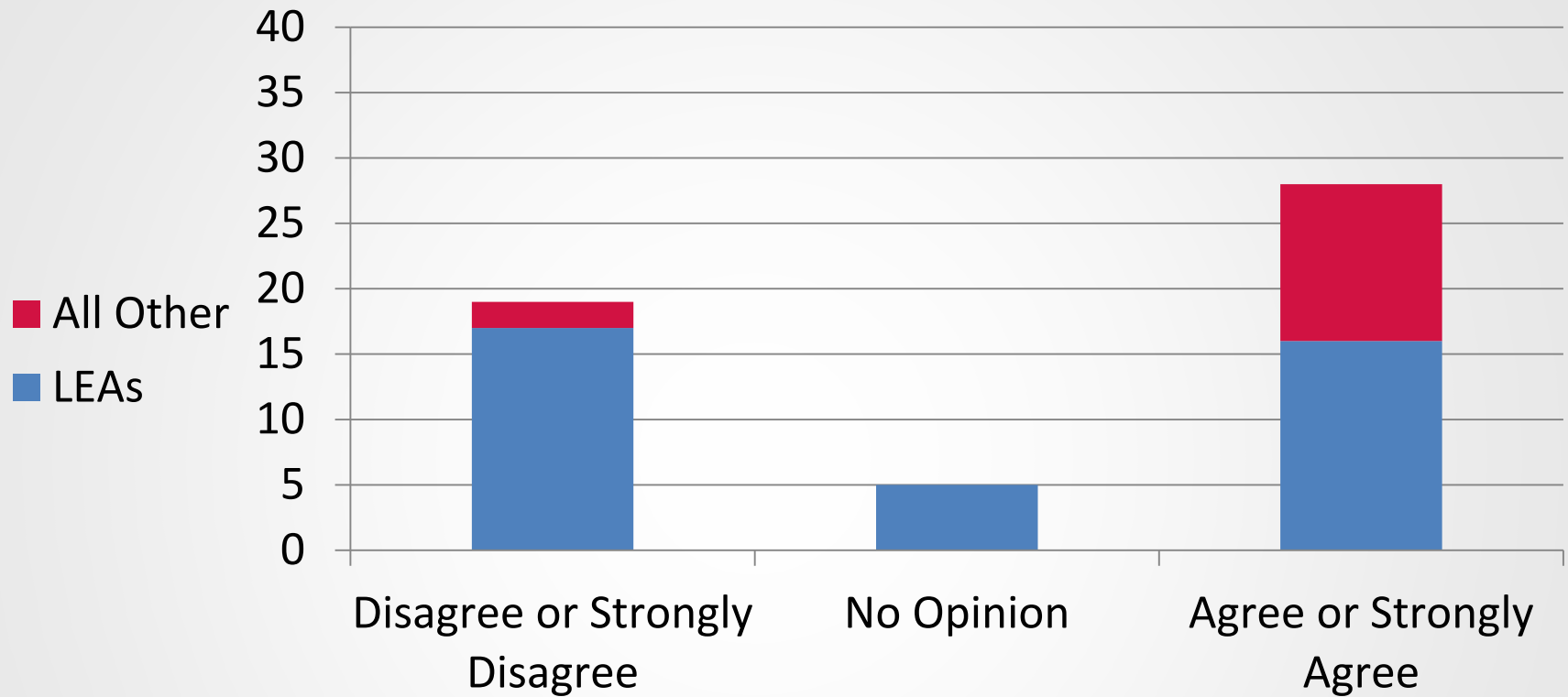
## Disagree

- This notion implies that OSSE is prioritizing teacher pipeline projects over other critical third-party projects.
- Teacher Quality, not just pipeline issues, should be included in the third-party grant priorities.
- Would need more information on effectiveness of pipeline programs - how long do prospective teachers stay in the profession, how 'pipeline' candidates get into program, how big an effort and how successful recruitment for minority teachers, etc., etc. Need more data .





**Q3. Do you support adding an additional \$1 M to the third-party grant competition – for a total of \$3.5 M – that would be available solely for teacher pipeline projects? (Other \$2.5 M would be available on a basis similar to last year.)**



	Disagree or Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Agree or Strongly Agree
LEAs (38)	45% (17)	13% (5)	42% (16)
Non-LEAs (14)	14% (2)	0% (0)	86% (12)
All Responses (52)	37% (19)	10% (5)	54% (28)



# LEA Comments – \$3.5M Third Party

## Agree

- We support the additional \$1M, but not competitive, should be based on need.
- [Support, although] I believe there should be more discussion on how these funds could be used outside of teacher pipeline projects
- Yes, but it needs to be 1) high quality and 2) accessible to a large number of LEAs in order to justify putting more resources towards the program.

## No Opinion

- It would depend on the effectiveness of current efforts. A centralized approach may or may not be producing the outcomes that are required. To the extent that we can collect data on the effectiveness of the current efforts, and the degree to which additional funding will increase the desired outcomes, then I would support additional funding allocations to this effort. Without evidence of effectiveness, the funds would be better spent on other competing priorities.



# LEA Comments – \$3.5M Third Party

## Strongly Disagree

- No. The District and Feds have previously funded several programs in DC at a cost of more than 12M over the past five years. These programs have directly competed with each other for talent at the benefit of only a couple of large CMOs and there is no data to suggest long-term financial or program viability. Again, if they want to apply for the limited funds available to 3rd party programs I think that is great. If schools want to apply for funds to support these programs as a part of strategic growth, great. However, I don't believe any funds should be further earmarked for organizations or types of organizations.
- What would the source be of the additional \$1 million? Can some of the proposed administration funds be set aside for this purpose or would there be a reduction in the per pupil amount to LEAs?
- This money could be allocated to LEAs to support the development of novice teachers in high needs subject areas.
- Money should come to schools.



# LEA Comments – \$3.5M Third Party

## **Strongly Disagree, cont.**

- A stated primary focus on teacher pipeline projects appears to be earmarked funding for one particular organization and priority vs. a more comprehensive view of city and LEA educational needs that might evolve over time. I also would prefer the funds be allocated directly to LEAs or LEA partnerships than funneled through a 3rd party.

## **Disagree**

- Taking funding away from the LEA formula allocation and putting more into the competitive grant program takes funding away from all charter schools, when they are already receiving funding at a deficit compared to traditional public schools. Any funding that can be distributed fairly among charter LEAs should be.
- It seems the bulk of any available funds should go directly to serving students.



# Non-LEA Comments – \$3.5M Third Party

## Strongly Agree

- Investment in teacher pipeline is critical.
- While this funding should be available given the acute staffing needs of many charters, OSSE should condition access to the funding on rigorous standards for performance for teachers who are recruited and/or trained via pipeline projects as well as demonstrations of efforts to making teaching a sustainable profession. To justify taking funds away from schools directly and towards third party organizations - even as a representative of an organization that would stand to benefit - Congress, OSSE, and LEAs must feel confident that third party partners are committed to providing the charter sector with teachers who are more likely to be effective and to stay.
- While welcome, \$1 million dollars will not go far in terms of supporting the development of teacher pipeline projects, especially if it is divided over several projects and over a two year time frame. If teacher pipeline development is the top priority, why not earmark more funds for this initiative and go deep instead of wide in terms of the number of grants awarded?



# Non-LEA Comments – \$3.5M Third Party

## **Strongly Disagree**

- I need answers to above questions before I can support this. [Above questions: Would need more information on effectiveness of pipeline programs - how long do prospective teachers stay in the profession, how 'pipeline' candidates get into program, how big an effort and how successful recruitment for minority teachers, etc., etc. Need more data .]

## **Disagree**

- These additional funds should be open for competitive bidding.



# Third Party Grants Overall

56% agree (23%) or strongly agree (33%) with having a \$2.5M third party grant with a focus on teacher pipeline projects.

- Only 50% of charter LEA respondents agree (18%) or strongly agree (32%)
- 71% of non-LEA respondents agree (35.5%) or strongly agree (35.5%)

54% agree (23%) or strongly agree (33%) with having a \$2.5M third party grant (similar to last year) and adding \$1M available solely for teacher pipeline projects.

- Only 42% of charter LEA respondents agree (18%) or strongly agree (32%)
- 86% of non-LEA respondents agree (35.5%) or strongly agree (35.5%)



# Third Party Overall – Other Comments

## LEA Comment

- How was the teacher pipelines focus for the third party grants determined?

## Non-LEA Comments

- What process was used to solicit stakeholder suggestions for earmarking funds for specific initiatives--i.e. teacher prep pipeline? I agree that this should be a funding priority, but what data/strategic analysis supports this focus? Are there other initiatives that are equally or more strategic?
- It is important to provide funding and ongoing support for teachers who may not have been traditionally certified and may have gaps in their training. Allocating funds for continuing teacher education that incentivize teachers to remain in the classroom and grow as practitioners will have a lasting effect on student outcome.
- Grant recipients along the teacher pipeline should be required to convene to ensure their services complement each other to support teachers.
- Hoping funding is available to support ongoing teacher training and growth programs for all teachers in the charter network.

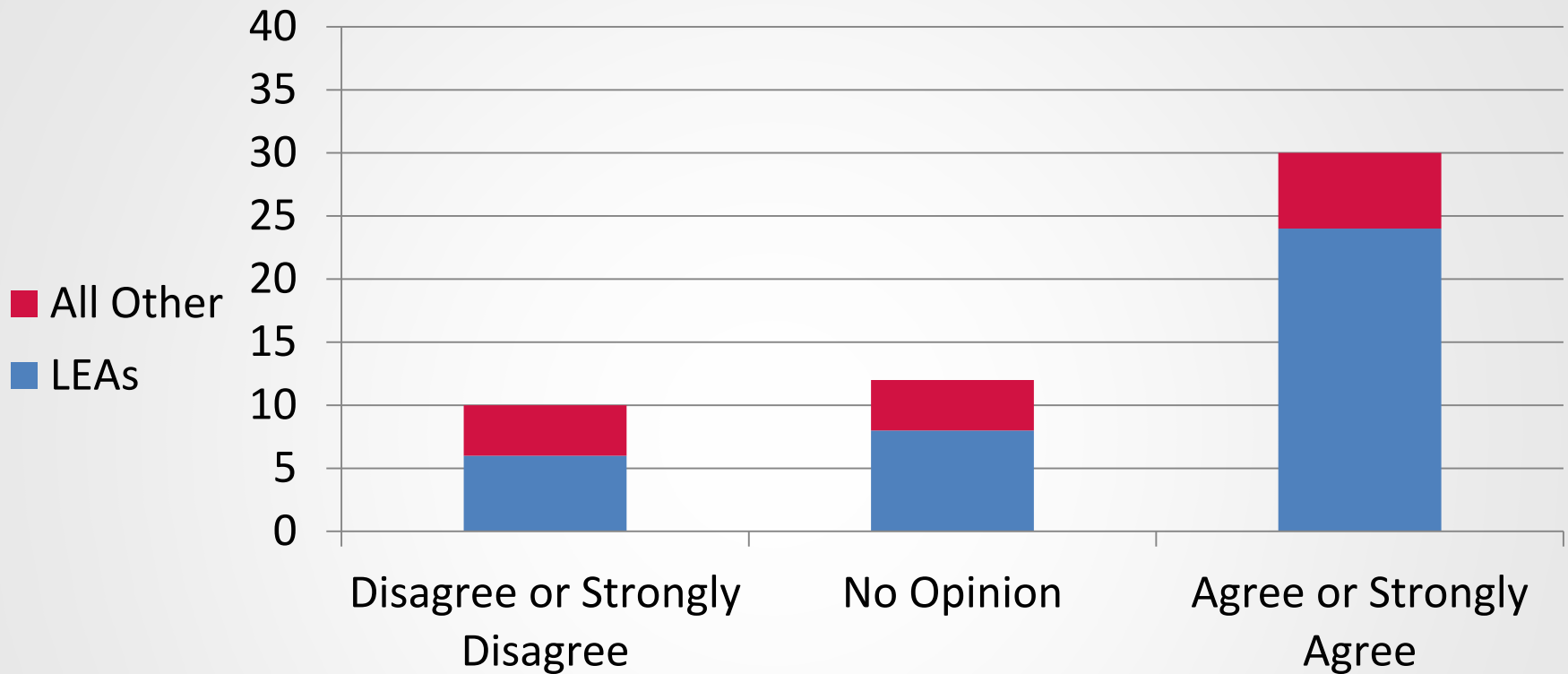




# Facilities Grant



## Q4. Do you support adding a competitive facilities grant of \$4 million?



	Disagree or Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Agree or Strongly Agree
LEAs (38)	16% (6)	21% (8)	63% (24)
Non-LEAs (14)	28.5%(4)	28.5%(4)	43%(6)
All Responses (52)	19%(10)	23%(12)	58%(30)



# LEA Comments – \$4M for Facilities

## **Strongly Support**

- Unless or until there are additional facilities funds, I believe this is very necessary for schools.
- [I] think criteria should be open enough to allow the smaller, single site LEAs to actually win this funding, as many of the larger CMOs continue to get these funds.
- This funding should be flexible and should support any and all facilities, including major renovations of existing facilities.

## **Support**

- Yes we support a competitive facilities grant.
- Facilities funding is always useful. Leveraging the funds has greater impact.
- It is almost impossible to fund facilities that have adequate educational amenities and space right now. The competitive piece may need reshaping however as it is unclear about how these applications in particular are judged and scored.



# LEA Comments – \$4M for Facilities

## No Opinion

- I don't necessarily oppose it, but I think there should be a needs assessment done to all schools who have received a PF grant previously. Facilities are such a hot topic and schools are struggling, especially charter schools and public schools in DC.
- Carving out \$4 million for facilities combined with the transition to formula grants for schools brings the per pupil amount available to schools down too low. On the other hand, if the grants go back to being competitive (rather than formula), then I support a facilities grant competition.



# LEA Comments – \$4M for Facilities

## **Oppose**

- I'm not opposed to a competitive facilities grant, but I don't believe taking the funds out of the SOAR formula allocation is the way to go.
- While this funding has been helpful to LEAs with facilities projects in the past, it significantly reduces the per pupil allocation and means that a small number of LEAs end up with the majority of funding.

## **Strongly Oppose**

- We have a strong and stable charter sector in DC. Financing for facilities projects is more readily available than in the past. Schools can also leverage their formula allocation.



# Non-LEA Comments – \$4M for Facilities

## **Strongly Support**

- Charter Schools need support for facilities funding, particularly in light of the flat facilities allowance funding they have been receiving, and the fact that surplus public school buildings are withheld from them in most instances.

## **Strongly Oppose**

- Money should be earmarked for improving instruction. \$280 per student is not much - especially for small schools that may already be struggling financially.



## Other Issues & Concerns



# OSSE Administrative Costs – Comments

- I feel that \$800,000 is still too high a number for administrative purposes especially if you are switching to a per-pupil allocation in the future. Does that not reduce the amount of work for OSSE?
- More detail should be provided on the administrative costs. If the majority of the funds are distributed on a per pupil basis, is the administrative burden lower?
- Is there more info on the administrative costs?
- I do not like the idea of 250K being reserved for MySchoolDC. **I also think that the 800K in admin fees is a little high.** Combined, this would mean that more than 10% of the total grant was going back to OSSE and DME.
- Funding for **Administrative** and My School DC purposes is excessively high. These Federal funds are explicitly intended for improving the quality of charter schools.





# OSSE Administrative Costs - Background

- Fiscal year 2013 was the first year the U.S. Department of Education (USED) started issuing SOAR charter sector funds as a grant instead of as a federal payment to the District.
- This change required the administration of SOAR charter sector funds as grants, including all attendant grant oversight responsibilities (administering a competitive grant process with external scoring and reviewing, implementing on-site and desk top monitoring, etc.).
- Before 2014, there was no specific accounting of staff who worked on the SOAR grant.
- In addition to SOAR staff being paid from non-SOAR funds, non-SOAR staff were routinely pulled in to assist with SOAR grant administration.
- We have a full team to work on this grant and need to pay those staff out of the appropriate funding stream.



# OSSE Administrative Costs – Specifics

- Administrative costs of 5-10% are routine for grant administration.
  - Last year we proposed \$910,000 (6.1%).
  - This year we are proposing \$800,000 (5.3%).
- Switch to formula will not translate to more (not less) administrative work because the number of grants will go up, not down:

	2016 actual	2017 est.	2018 est.
<b>New Grants</b>	47	65 formula 5 early childhood 5-15 3 <sup>rd</sup> party 5-10 public facilities	65+ formula 5 early childhood 5-15 3 <sup>rd</sup> party 5-10 public facilities
<b>Grants in 2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b>	24	40	10-25
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>125-135</b>	<b>90-120</b>



# My School DC – Survey Comments

- My Schools DC should not be funded out of the OSSE SOAR program. I believe that is a city responsibility that should be funded out of the District's education funds.
- Will there be funds requested from DCPS's SOAR money to pay for MySchool DC as well? I don't think any funds should be removed from the charter SOAR funds and allocated towards MySchool DC.
- What is the basis for including funds for MySchoolDC? I don't recall this being proposed when MySchoolDC was starting when there was extensive conversation about the sustainability of the effort.
- **I do not like the idea of 250K being reserved for MySchoolDC.** I also think that the 800K in admin fees is a little high. Combined, this would mean that more than 10% of the total grant was going back to OSSE and DME.
- Funding for Administrative and **My School DC** purposes is excessively high. These Federal funds are explicitly intended for improving the quality of charter schools.



# My School DC - Background

- My School DC launched in 2014 as a collaboration among charter LEAs, DCPS, DME, and PCSB with seed money from the private and public sectors.
- DCPS and PCS have contributed financially in **equal parts**, and those contributions make up about 25% of My School DC's FY16 operating budget
- Four key decision makers in 2014 - Deputy Mayor for Education Abigail Smith, State Superintendent Jesus Aguirre, PCSB Executive Director Scott Pearson and Chancellor Kaya Henderson – decided that each sector's contribution would come from SOAR funds to support My School DC, rather than ask each participating LEA to pay My School DC from their local per pupil funds.
- My School DC serves 214 public schools from 53 LEAs (97% of all District schools serving PK3-12)



## Other Comments



# Application Content and Timing

- The SOAR grant applications are extremely labor intensive. I know you state that if OSSE changes to a formula grant, applicants would have to submit a "streamlined application," please make it indeed streamlined. It seems that what would be important is the Project Description and budget aligned with the activities, rather than providing the Needs Assessment, Project Data, etc.
- In the last proposal process, the time between the release of the RFP and the grant submission deadline was very short and coincided with busy new school year gear-up activities. This short time frame made it very difficult to be as thoughtful and thorough in the proposal development work as we would have liked. A little more time might result in higher quality submissions, with less need for back-tracking with adjustments once the grants have been awarded.
- I think you should only require one logic model. I think the back-end system needs to be adjusted/updated and more easy to use. We had a few periods (.) and Exclamation points that were not letting us save our work. That took 8 hours to fix with the support staff. That should not happen. I think you should keep all deadlines to 11:59 p.m.



# General Support and Budget Proposal

## General Support

- It is great to hear that SOAR is being considered as a formula grant. This could be a more fair process. Thank you!
- I think this is a terrific idea for the disbursement of SOAR funds.
- I am supportive overall of the idea as presented except where I have made some specific notes.
- By and large, I believe the OSSE staff has effectively managed these programs in ways that have increased the number of quality seats and quality schools. I think it makes sense to re-calibrate this periodically and to be flexible to meet the changing priorities of schools and the families they serve.
- We think Ronda and Katie are great. They should keep up the good work.

## Alternative Budget Proposal

- LEA Formula Allocation \$11,371,863.92 • Early Childhood \$628,136.08 • Third Party \$2,500,000 • Administrative Costs \$500,000 • MySchool DC \$0



# Alternative Distribution Suggestions

## Keep Competition for LEAs

- Competitive grants for high quality, rigorous proposals that are focused on improving curriculum and/or instruction in schools.
- Consider looking at focusing on struggling schools and awarding more points based on NEED.
- We think that a SOAR Academic Quality grant should also be included in the proposed budget.
- Not necessarily on a per-pupil basis, but on a competitive basis so that high-quality applications are awarded funds. If OSSE wants to ensure that more charter schools receive funding, then maybe reduce the award amounts and give to more LEAs/organizations. And/or create three tiers of awards based on the size of the LEA. This way smaller LEAs "compete" against smaller LEAs, medium LEAs "compete" against medium, and ensure that LEAs of all sizes receive funding.





# Alternative Distribution Suggestions, cont.

## **Don't Make Any Changes**

- I would like for the process to remain the same as it was this year.

## **Distribute Based on Characteristics of Students**

- Based on the needs of the children at a school: Schools serving a higher percentage of special education and at risk student populations need more funds to increase academic achievement outcomes for these students.
- Given the significant academic gaps for schools with high % of At Risk populations, we must invest substantially in expanding proven programs to support more students and piloting out programs that drive results for students and schools with high At Risk percentages.
- Allocation of funds should be based on socioeconomic status of student enrollments.
- Weigh percent of FARMS in addition to number of students.



# Alternative Distribution Suggestions, cont.

- As a provider of services in middle schools, I see many funders [shifting resources] to early childhood. While I do understand the reasoning that helping children be on grade level since the beginning gives you more bang for the buck, I also know that middle school is a desert of opportunities...[The office of ] the deputy mayor for education has listed middle schools in her list of challenges this year. [Students] who receive support in the early grade and then step into a vacuum in the middle grades, are still in danger of dropping out three years later in 9th grade, because their social reality has not changed at home, in the meanwhile. Only now there is no one to shepherd them through. The opportunity gap for middle school kids is as important as the achievement gap, as very soon, as soon as high school, will find themselves competing for slots against kids who know how to look adults in the eye, how to do an interview, how to talk about all the wonderful extra things they do and how to "sell" themselves because they have been taught to do that. [All] kids deserve the same care and the same opportunities the school day doesn't have the time to offer. In the end, offering extra-curricular opportunities is also conducive to closing the achievement gap.



# Alternative Distribution Suggestions, cont.

## **Distribute Based on Characteristics of School**

- No alternative proposal but would like to think about it. My initial thoughts are that OSSE should look at "equity vs equally" - rather than allocating funds on an equal per capita basis, OSSE should consider a more equitable distribution formula that would provide more support for schools that are performing satisfactory but have financial challenges.

## **Other Distribution Proposals**

- It may not be possible given federal requirements, but a multi-year grant would help a lot with continuity of programming and planning.
- Think the formula funded portion should only go to those who have distinguished themselves as actually Increasing Academic Quality. Focus and Priority schools should not be eligible.
- More funding directly to LEAs with a mix of per-pupil allocation and competitive funding. Fewer 3rd party grants.



# Early Childhood and Adult Education

## Early Childhood

- All PreK should be funded under Title 1 as it was from 1999 to 2010. Then that would free those funds for general per pupil distribution.
- The funds for PreK should be coming out of Title I funds (the way it was for several years) thus freeing \$628,136.08 from SOAR funds to add to the per pupil allocation.

## Adult Education

- Consider shifting funding to adult ed where Perkins money has been lost.
- Consider adult ed grants . . . similar to [the Early Childhood grant].



# Other Comments

- One of the challenges with SOAR funding is always around equitable allocation. So much of our everyday work involves managing around scarcity: facilities, human capital, growth capital, capacity building, access to technology for better management, etc. Our organization has benefitted from a variety of different kinds of SOAR grants throughout the history of the program that have been critical to our growth with quality. . . . In turn, these grants have enabled us to share best practices and build the capacity of other schools to improve teaching and learning.
- I reviewed the "reviewers" comments and I significantly struggled with the stark differences between reviewers and how they marked the proposals. Some were so starkly different. I think the reviewers should have the ability to have multiple perspectives and I think that causes such drastic differences in proposals.
- Currently the optics are that the LEAs that always get SOAR continue to get SOAR, while smaller single-site LEAs that need more support do not. Quality should be part of the criteria, but NEED should also be highly considered.
- You should also hold a focus group of LEA leaders to discuss the SOAR grant.



# Proposed Budget



# FFY16 Application to ED: Budget Proposal

Purpose of Funds	Amount Proposed
<i>Funds for Charter Schools</i>	
LEA Formula Allocation for Academic Quality Grants (Per Pupil Allocation \$150.64)*	\$5,821,863.92
Early Childhood Grants	**\$628,136.08
Facilities Grants	\$4,000,000.00
<i>Funds for Charter Support Organizations</i>	
Third Party Charter-Support Grant (similar to last year)	\$2,000,000.00
Third Party Teacher Pipeline Grant	\$1,500,000.00
<i>Administrative</i>	
Administration (5.3% of total grant)	\$800,000.00
MySchool DC	\$250,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,000,000.00</b>

\*Based on SY 2015-16 audited charter sector enrollment (38,647).

\*\*To be updated once SY 2016-17 allocations received.



# Discussion





# Formula Funding

**Survey results strongly favor a (72%) per-pupil formula distribution for most funds.** (LEAs 79%; non-LEAs 50%)

- If LEAs decline to apply for formula funding, how should OSSE redistribute the funds?
  - Redistribute to rest of LEAs through the formula?
  - Roll into the next year? Shift to a competitive grant?
- What are some suggestions for streamlining the application?
- Other suggestions?



# Competitive Funding

- Do we keep a competitive facilities grant? Is \$4.0M the right amount? Should it be less?
  - What should the third party grants look like?
  - How big should the individual grants be?
  - Should priority be given to any particular applicants?
    - Facilities: LEAs who have never received one? Based on performance?
    - Third party: Past performance? LEA partners?
  - How should returned/unexpended funds be redistributed?
  - Other suggestions?
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# Other Issues

## **OSSE Administrative, My School DC**

- Other comments or suggestions?

## **All Other**

- Other comments or suggestions?