

# WCPSS Use of Pandemic Relief Funds

Joint Meeting – March 22, 2022

Board of Education / Board of County Commissioners

# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

## Today

- Began providing regular updates to Board at Finance Committee on May 5, 2020
- Most recent update was to Board at Finance Committee on March 15, 2022
- Today is a continuation of regular updates to provide transparency into District use of Funds
- Share background on how funding has been targeted during phases of pandemic
- Provide status of utilization of funding received to date\*

\*Expenditure to Date Data through February 28, 2022

# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

## Background on how funding has been targeted during phases of Pandemic

- Mid-March 2020 - Our world fundamentally changes:



## State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER

GOVERNOR

March 14, 2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 117

PROHIBITING MASS GATHERINGS AND DIRECTING THE STATEWIDE  
CLOSURE OF K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

### Section 2. School Closures

- a. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(b)(5) which allows the undersigned to perform and exercise such other functions, powers and duties as are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population, and with the concurrence of the Council of State, I hereby direct that all public schools close for students effective Monday, March 16, 2020 until March 30, 2020, unless extended beyond that date.

# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

- Over \$400 million in funding from Federal & State sources
- Funding designed to be used over a four-year period
  - Management of acute transition to all virtual learning
  - Transition back to physical classroom & Virtual Academy
  - Investment in Staff
  - Ongoing multi-year investment in supplemental learning support

# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

## All Students Remote

- Two weeks out of brick & mortar school grows into an extended timespan of uncertainty
- Reinventing our instructional delivery model requires significant effort and funding
- Student devices
- Student hotspots & connectivity services
- Production of learning materials to take home
- Curriculum development

# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

## Student Devices Hotspots & Service

Over 130,000 devices deployed

## Development of Remote Learning Materials

Expenditure to Date: \$22.3 Million

Planned Expenditures through  
June 30, 2022: \$6.5 million



# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Efforts & Funds

## All Students Remote

- How do we maintain employment for Bus Drivers & CNS staff?
- Provision of meals to students (and families) in need?
- How do we provide teachers the space to continue to teach while their children are remote and at home with the teachers too?
- How do we provide parents the space to work at their jobs while their students would otherwise be home alone?

# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

## All Students Remote

- Community Food Distribution Program
- Meal production & packaging by CNS Staff
- School based meal distribution by CNS Staff
- Community based meal distribution by Bus Drivers / Partnership with YMCA

# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

Community Food  
Distribution

Over 5,000,000 meals

Support of CNS  
Operation during  
Period of No Meal  
Sales

Expenditure to Date: \$ 12.4 million  
Planned Expenditures through June  
30, 2022: \$1 million



# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Efforts

## All Students Remote

- Families and Schools Together (Fast) Program
- Staffed by CNS & Bus Drivers & Community Partners
- Supervision of students in school or Partner facility while they learn virtually
- Provides the space for working parents with students to continue their work
- Including our teachers with students so they were able to continue to teach

# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Efforts

Families & Schools Together Program

10,000 Students Served

Allowing Parents with students to work including our Teachers with Students to Teach

## FAST LEAD PARTNERS



# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

## Planning for when we do return to school buildings for 2020-21 school year

- Need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Staff & Students
- Need for classroom desks to accommodate social distancing
- Related equipment including physical barriers, picnic tables, sanitizer dispensers, sanitizer
- At the time it was thought that daily surface disinfection was essential – disinfection supplies, related equipment to use, and contracted services to implement

# Minimize the Transmission of Virus/PPE Supplies

## Personal Protection Equipment

- Adult and child mask
- Hand sanitizer
- Gloves
- Thermometer
- Picnic Tables



## Custodial Disinfecting Services

- Daily disinfectant contract custodial cleaning
- Disinfecting cleaning supplies



Expenditure to Date: \$18.3M

Planned Expenditures through June 30, 2022: \$6.2 million



# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

## Background on how funding has been targeted during phases of pandemic

- Acknowledgement that coming back to brick and mortar may not work for all
- Standup of a Virtual Academy

# Virtual Academy Supports

## Virtual Academy (2021-2022)

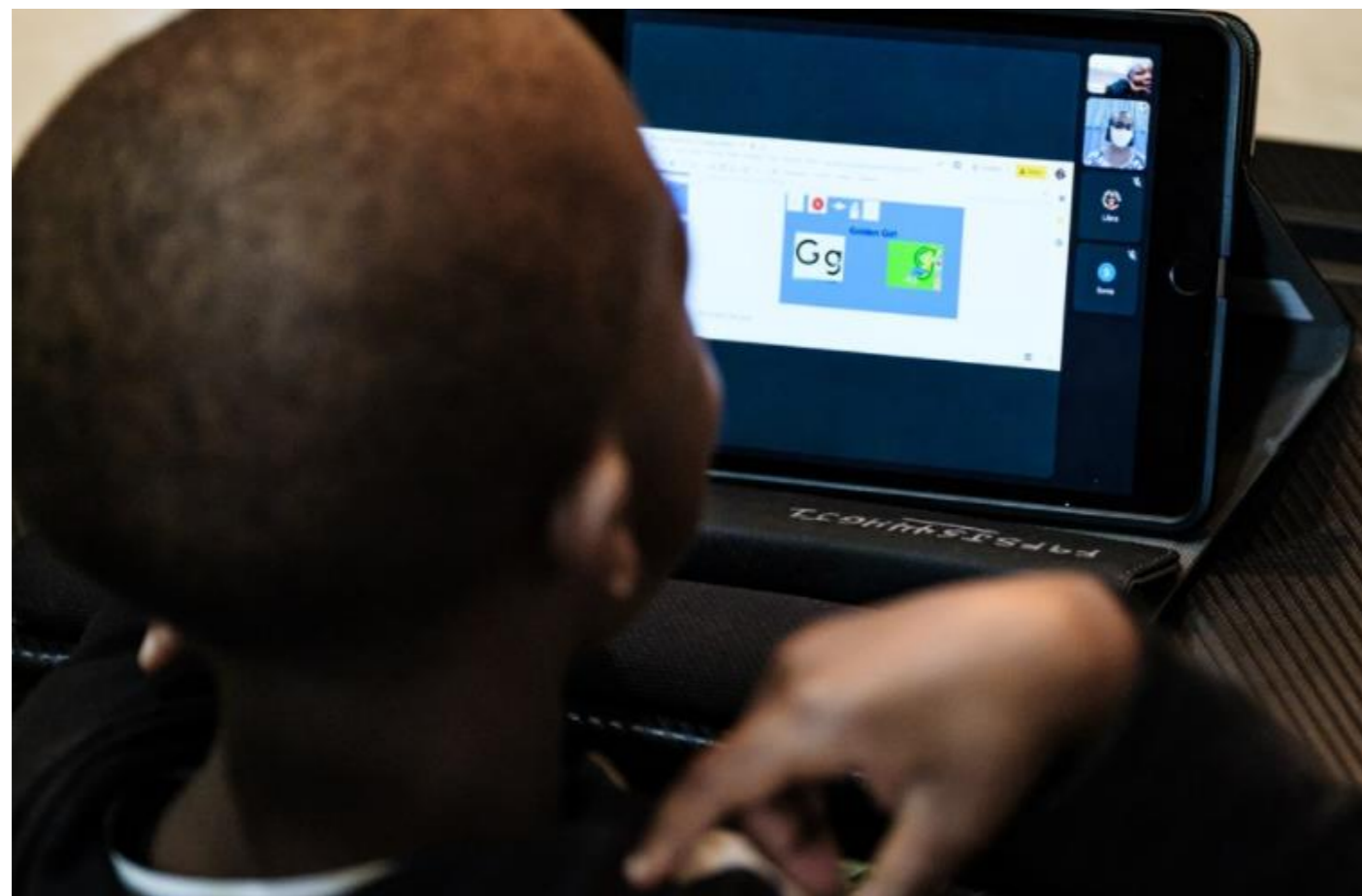
Includes:

Teachers, Assistant Principals and Clerical Staff  
2,300 Months of Employment

- Assigned to Virtual Academy
- Pay for planning related to implementation of Virtual Academy
- NC Virtual Public-School costs of implementation

Expenditure to Date: \$9.7M

Planned Expenditures through  
June 30, 2022: \$6 million



# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

## Not Everything Resolved with Return to Brick & Mortar & Virtual Academy

- Learning Loss
- Intervention Staff
- Summer 2021 programs
- Meeting the social emotional learning needs of students

# Learning Loss

## Instructional Support Technicians (2021-2024)

- IST Positions support student and parent engagement in the district's instructional technology resources. These positions expand an existing support structure and ensures equitable access across all student populations.
- Digital Tools Administrator to support districtwide digital resources.



Expenditure to Date: \$20M

Planned Expenditures through June 30, 2022: \$10.1 million

## Digital Learning Resources (2021-2024)

- Quaver Music
- Dreambox
- Instructure Canvas
- iReady
- Mackin Educational

## Intervention Teachers (2021-2024)

- Additional MOE must be used to provide intervention instruction to students requiring supplemental and/or intensive supports. This person works in conjunction with the Intervention Team Facilitator/Coordinator and the classroom teacher.

# Summer Learning

## Summer Learning (2021-2022)

- In-person instruction in English Language Arts, science and math, plus enrichment activities (music, arts, technology), to students who have been identified as needing additional support in their learning.

Personnel: Teachers,  
Transportation and Child Nutrition

Signing and Retention Bonuses

15,242 students served

Expenditure to Date: \$32.5M

Planned Expenditures through  
June 30, 2022: \$145 k



# Mental Health Services

## Social Emotional Learning Personnel:

Nurses, Social Workers, Counselors, Psychologists and district support.



## Social Emotional Learning Resources:

Second Step Online Curriculum

Expenditure to Date: \$10.1M

Planned Expenditures through June 30, 2022: \$3.4

**Social Emotional Learning Contract Support:** Trauma Informed Practices, Restorative Practices, Supportive Counseling and Community Liaisons, Wellness Session (after hours/weekends).



# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

## The Pandemic Fundamentally Changes the Employment Marketplace

- Existing staffing vacancies based upon uncompetitive compensation exacerbated by fundamental changes to the employment marketplace
- Hiring incentives
- Building Level Permanent Substitute Teacher
- Retention & Recognition Bonuses

# Staff Bonuses – Recruitment, Retention, & Recognition

## Recruitment & Retention Bonus (2021-2022)

- Bus Drivers
- \$1,200 per new hire employee
- After (3 months of employment - \$400 & \$800 @ 1 Year)

## Recruitment & Retention Bonus (2021-2022)

- Instructional Assistants
- \$1,200 per new hire employee
- After (3 months of employment - \$600 & \$600 November 2022)

## Recruitment & Retention Bonus (2021-2022)

- Special Education Teachers
- \$3,500 per new hire employee after July 1, 2021
- After (3 months of employment - \$1,750 & 1,750 November 2022)

## Retention Bonus (2021-2022)

- Child Nutrition Staff
- Up to \$1,350 – Payable June 2022

Expenditure to Date: \$38.2M

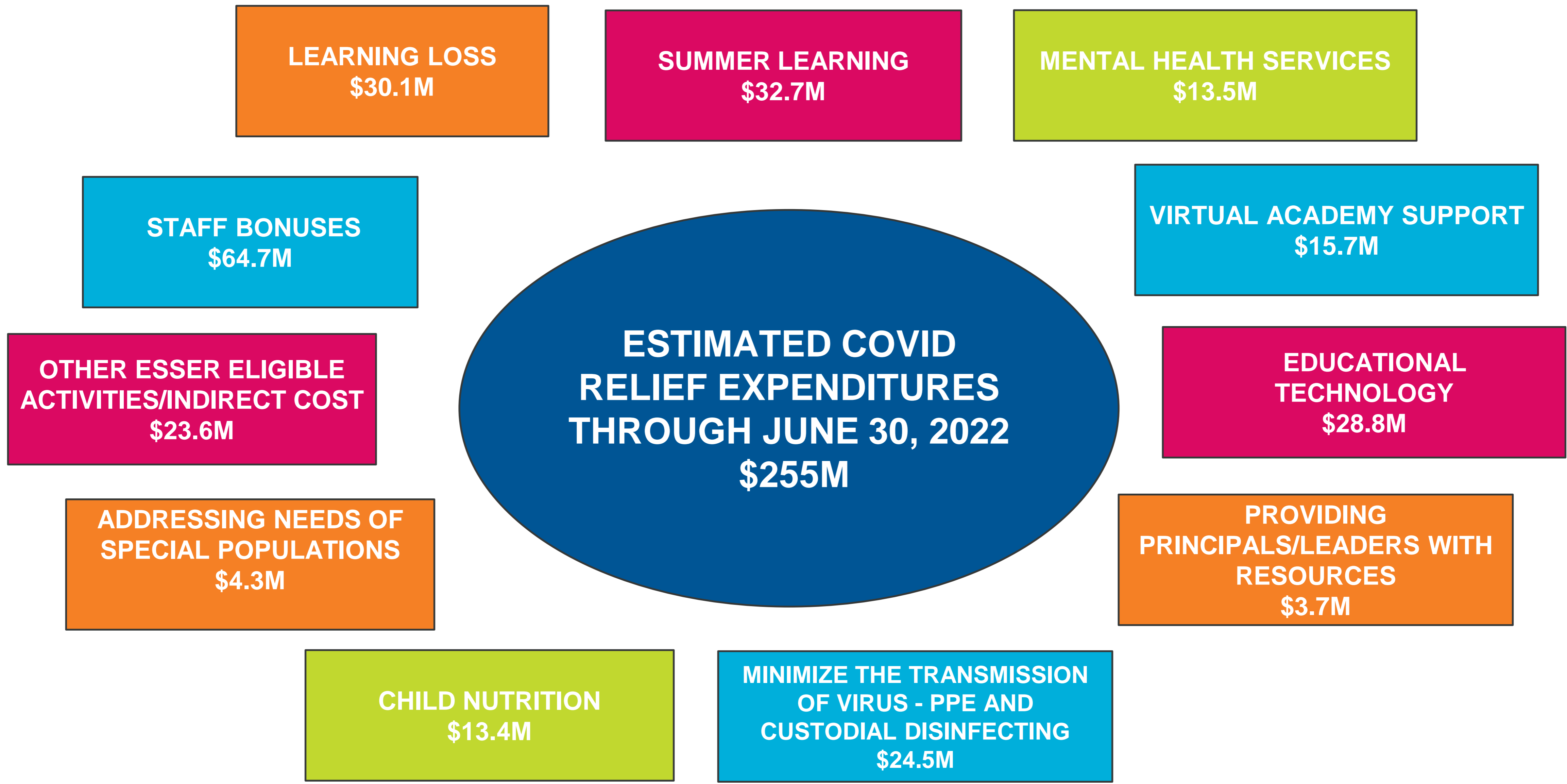
Planned Expenditures through  
June 30, 2022: \$26.5 million

## Legislative Bonus (partially unfunded by State)

- Teachers and licensed instructional support personnel.
- \$1,000 per employee COVID Training
- January 2022

## Retention & Recognition Bonuses CY 2023

- \$1,250 per employee
- January 2022, May 2022 and November 2022



# COVID Pandemic Relief Funds

<b>Total Pandemic Funding</b>	<b>\$431,407,820</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Expenditures through February 28, 2022	(\$179,383,018)	41.6%
Estimated Costs March 1 - June 30, 2022	(\$75,515,051)	17.5%
<b>Estimated Pandemic Funds Carryover 7/1/22</b>	<b>\$176,509,751</b>	<b>40.9%</b>

- Funding use spans four complete school years:
  - 2020-2021
  - 2021-2022
  - 2022-2023
  - 2023-2024
- Current utilization rates align with intended funds usage

# COVID Pandemic Relief Funds

## Big Rocks for 2022-23 & 2023-24

- Staff Retention & Recognition Bonus
- Summer Learning
- Learning Loss
- Mental Health Services
- Building Level Substitute Teachers
- Minimize Virus PPE/Custodial

# COVID Pandemic Relief Funds

## Next COVID Pandemic Relief Funds Update to Board of Education

- Update on plans for utilization of remaining funds for the final two years
- Fiscal Cliff discussion

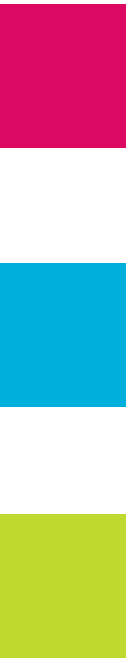
# COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Funds

## Prior Board Update Presentations

- Ongoing effort to provide transparency into District use of Funds:
  - May 5, 2020 update – Board Work-Session – (begin page 10) Presentation
  - September 15, 2020 update – Board Finance Committee – Presentation
  - November 10, 2020 – Board Finance Committee – Presentation
  - March 16, 2021 update – Board Finance Committee – (begin page 14) Presentation
  - October 19, 2021 update – Board Finance Committee - Presentation
  - November 16, 2021 update – Board Finance Committee - (begin page 14) Presentation

# COVID Pandemic Relief Funds

## Q&A



# WCPSS Use of Pandemic Relief Funds

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