



AASA's Webinar on the American Rescue Plan

Noelle Ellerson Ng

Sasha Pudelski

One Year of COVID Relief

COVID 1: H.R. 6074, Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act (3/6/20)

Small in scope and focus; targeted on bolstering capacity to respond to the COVID-19 health emergency.

COVID 2: H.R. 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (3/18/20)

Includes funding adjacent to education: critical flexibility for school nutrition programs and mandate for sick paid/family leave.

COVID 3: H.R. 748, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) (3/27/20)

First bill to include dedicated funding for K-12 education (\$13b).

COVID 3.5/4: H.R. 266, Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (4/24/20)

Series of technical changes, along with money for testing, hospitals and PPP.

COVID 5: H.R. 133 Consolidated Appropriations Act / Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CAA/CRRSA/CARES II) (12/27/20)

Massive FY21 spending and COVID-relief package. Months in the making.

“The most progressive domestic legislation in a generation”

- KEVIN MCCARTHY

The American Rescue Plan

Funding for districts: \$110 billion

How does this compare to other COVID aid/federal money?

Annual fed Title/IDEA funds per pupil = +640/student

+ March CARES = +270/student

+ Dec. CCRSA/CARES II = +1,100/student

+ ARP = +2,600/student

For comparison, ARP is **10x CARES** or **2 x CCRSA/CARES II**

Use/Distribution of Funding

Ninety percent of funding will be distributed to districts based on their relative share of Title I, Part A funding. (not a fan favorite)

The funding can be spent flexibly like the December package. This includes expenditures related to:

- Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities,
- School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission
- Addressing learning loss
- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning
- Providing mental health services and supports, including through community schools
- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity)
- Providing meals to students during school closures
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean buildings
- And more

NEW SET ASIDE: 20% of funding must be used to address learning recovery through the implementation of *evidence-based interventions*, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs,

Learning Recovery Set-Aside Details

Evidence based: USED interpretation of this term will be critical to how flexibly you can/will be able to have your expenditures/interventions meet the 'learning loss' requirement

Interventions must also “respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the student subgroups, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.”

Can you only spend 20% on learning recovery? NO! You can spend all of it on learning loss if you want!

Maintenance of Equity

States cannot reduce their per-pupil funding in high needs LEAs for the next two years by more than any overall per pupil reduction in state funding; and states cannot reduce state funding for the highest poverty LEAs in their state below the state funding those LEAs receive in 2018-19. This would apply to both the 2022 and 2023 fiscal years.

LEAs cannot reduce combined state and local per-pupil funding and per pupil full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing for high poverty LEAs by more than any district-wide reductions.

- LEAs enrolling less than 1,000 students; and/or operating only one school building; and/or serving all students in a grade span in a single school would be exempt.
- For context, this would exempt nearly half of the nation's LEAs from this provision.

Additional Set Asides

800 million set-aside for McKinney Vento. This translates to an increase of 8x McKinney Vento funding.

2.5 billion for IDEA. This is an increase of 20% in IDEA funding when compared to annual appropriations.

- Be careful! This is one-time funding. Beware of running into MOE issues.

And....2.75 billion in funding for non-public schools.

Schumer and a Teachers' Union Leader Secure Billions for Private Schools

The pandemic relief bill includes \$2.75 billion for private schools. How it got there is an unlikely political tale, involving Orthodox Jewish lobbying, the Senate majority leader and a teachers' union president.

NEW: Required Plan for Opening

Within 30 days of receiving funding, LEAs have to develop and make public a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of educational services. Before making public the plan, the LEA must seek public comment and take this into account in the development of the plan.

If the LEA developed a plan for safe return to in-person instruction before March 13th that did take public comment into effect, the plan will have met the requirement.

Funding for Homework Gap

- ARP includes just over \$7 billion to help schools address homework gap
- Designed to support remote and in-school access for both staff and students
- Will allow LEAs to buy devices and more to help close homework gap
- Implementation is expected to closely mirror the E-Rate program

ARP And Other Child Supports

TAXES! For every dollar that a state spends on net tax cuts in the next couple years, it will lose a dollar of federal aid. The provision doesn't bar tax cuts (it leads to an equivalent drop in aid) and it's not permanent (it expires when the aid is spent or 2024, whichever comes first).

Child Care

- Childcare Development Block Grant (\$15 b)
- Child Care Stabilization (\$23.9 b)
- Head Start (\$1 b)

State and Local Fiscal Relief (\$362 b)

Increases child tax credit

Timelines

When will you get the money?

How long do you have to spend the money?

What do you need to know about spending down the dollars?

Join us TOMORROW for **American Rescue Plan Explained: Implementing for Success**

- March 18 at 2 pm ET: [Register today!](#)

Other news re Biden Admin

Extension on doing Seamless/SOS meals until Sept 30, 2021

HHS is sending \$10b to states to help implement coronavirus surveillance testing in K-12 schools

No longer enforcing public charge regulation

Expected action to repeal the Title IX regulation in next 2 months

Expected DOE action on discipline guidance, transgender student/athlete guidance

Accountability waivers available; assessment conversations between States and ED still ongoing

What's next on Capitol Hill?

Infrastructure!

Schools are the original community infrastructure– we expect at least 100b in dedicated funding for schools.



Questions?

Noelle Ellerson Ng

nellerson@aasa.org

@Noellerson

Sasha Pudelski

spudelski@aasa.org

@Spudelski

Chris Rogers

crogers@aasa.org

@CXRogers16