

Department of Education Announces American Rescue Plan Funds for All 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia to Help Schools Reopen

\$122 billion from the American Rescue Plan will help achieve President Biden's goal to open the majority of K-8 schools within his first 100 days in office

Today, less than a week after President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the U.S. Department of Education (Department) announced the amount of ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding that each State, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia will receive to support their efforts to reopen K-12 schools safely this month and equitably expand opportunity for students who need it most. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona delivered the news directly to state education commissioners in a letter issued today and said the Department will begin to make these funds available to state educational agencies (SEAs) this month. The announcement coincides with the Department of Health and Human Services' announcement that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will provide \$10 billion to states to support COVID-19 screening testing for K-12 teachers, staff, and students in schools, and marks swift action by the Biden-Harris Administration to meet the President's goal of safely reopening the majority of K-8 schools within the first 100 days of his administration.

"This pandemic has taken an extraordinary toll on students, parents, educators, and schools, and we know that our schools, students, and communities need help now to reopen safely and quickly, and to stay open," said Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "These funds from the American Rescue Plan and the extraordinary steps the Department is taking to get these resources to states quickly will allow schools to invest in mitigation strategies to get students back in the classroom and stay there, and address the many impacts this pandemic has had on students—especially those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic."

The Department announced the allocation that each SEA will receive under the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund, totaling \$122 billion in relief for K-12 schools. The Department will begin to make these funds available this month so that they may act to fund health and safety measures consistent with CDC guidance, address the disruptions to teaching and learning resulting from the pandemic—especially for students hardest hit by the pandemic—and get students back in the classroom quickly and safely.

In his letter, Secretary Cardona urged states and school districts to utilize these funds with the

same sense of urgency the President and Congress used to pass the American Rescue Plan Act and with the same commitment that families and educators have to getting students back in classrooms for in-person instruction safely.

The ARP ESSER funds may be used to address the many impacts of COVID-19 on pre-K through 12 education, including:

- Investing in resources to implement CDC's K-12 operational strategy for in-person learning to keep educators, staff, and students safe; improving ventilation; purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE); and obtaining additional space to ensure social distancing in classrooms.
- Avoiding devastating layoffs and hiring additional educators to address learning loss, providing support to students and existing staff, and providing sufficient staffing to facilitate social distancing.
- Implementing strategies to meet the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of students hit hardest by the pandemic, including through evidence-based interventions and critical services like community schools.
- Funding crucial summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs.
- Hiring additional school personnel, such as nurses and custodial staff, to keep schools safe and healthy.
- Providing for social distancing and safety protocols on buses.
- Funding for Wi-Fi hotspots and devices for students without connectivity for remote learning and supporting educators in the effective use of technology; and
- Additional uses as allowed in the statute.

Secretary Cardona also underscored the importance of advancing equity in states' efforts to reopen schools quickly and safely. The Secretary encouraged states to make sure students who have been hit hardest by COVID-19 are provided with the resources and support they need to emerge from this pandemic stronger. American Rescue Plan funds can be used by SEAs and school districts to equitably expand opportunities for students who need the funds most, including students from low-income backgrounds, students of color, students with disabilities, English learners, students experiencing homelessness, and students with inadequate access to technology. Secretary Cardona also reaffirmed the Department's ongoing commitment to providing technical assistance, guidance, and best practices to states as they work to utilize these funds.

The below table outlines the amount of funding each SEA will receive from the ARP ESSER Fund. Additional information, including an ARP ESSER Fact Sheet and allocation tables, can be found at <https://oese.gov/american-rescue-plan-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief>.

These funding levels do not include the \$10 bil-

lion in funding HHS will invest for screening testing to help schools reopen.

In addition to the ARP ESSER funding for states, the American Rescue Plan includes \$7.6 billion for special education, children and youth experiencing homelessness, Tribal educational agencies, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives, emergency assistance to non-public schools, and the Outlying Areas (American Samoa, the Com-

monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), as well as \$40 billion for higher education.



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American Rescue Plan ESSER Fund Allocation			
STATE			
ALABAMA	2,020,070,466	MISSOURI	1,956,529,215
ALASKA	358,707,134	MONTANA	382,019,236
ARIZONA	2,582,098,697	NEBRASKA	545,908,619
ARKANSAS	1,253,227,833	NEVADA	1,071,998,392
CALIFORNIA	15,068,884,546	NEW HAMPSHIRE	350,501,633
COLORADO	1,166,328,632	NEW JERSEY	2,764,587,703
CONNECTICUT	1,105,919,874	NEW MEXICO	979,056,256
DELAWARE	410,733,965	NEW YORK	8,988,780,836
D.O. COLUMBIA	386,317,154	NORTH CAROLINA	3,599,191,706
FLORIDA	7,038,246,438	NORTH DAKOTA	305,266,879
GEORGIA	4,249,371,244	OHIO	4,472,067,097
HAWAII	412,328,764	OKLAHOMA	1,493,582,570
IDAHO	439,942,041	OREGON	1,121,028,734
ILLINOIS	5,054,988,054	PENNSYLVANIA	4,996,953,151
INDIANA	1,994,734,056	PUERTO RICO	2,965,938,760
IOWA	774,516,216	RHODE ISLAND	415,015,610
KANSAS	830,585,182	SOUTH CAROLINA	2,112,051,487
KENTUCKY	2,084,773,157	SOUTH DAKOTA	382,019,236
LOUISIANA	2,605,463,325	TENNESSEE	2,487,638,081
MAINE	411,303,282	TEXAS	12,418,588,778
MARYLAND	1,951,136,802	UTAH	615,526,070
MASSACHUSETTS	1,830,128,073	VERMONT	285,164,138
MICHIGAN	3,719,833,128	VIRGINIA	2,109,490,751
MINNESOTA	1,320,645,901	WASHINGTON	1,852,501,071
MISSISSIPPI	1,627,197,854	WEST VIRGINIA	761,417,928
		WISCONSIN	1,540,784,854
		WYOMING	303,709,391
		TOTAL	121,974,800,000

Department of Education to Host National Safe School Reopening Summit on Wednesday, March 24

Following the passage of the American Rescue Plan recently signed by President Biden, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced more details today regarding the virtual National Safe School Reopening Summit, which will take place on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 12pm EDT. The summit program will include welcoming remarks from First Lady Dr. Jill Biden as well as remarks from Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Dr. Rochelle Walensky. It will also consist of three panels that will include health experts, educators and education leaders, and students.

"Since day one, my top priority, and a top priority for President Biden and Vice President Harris, has been to get kids safely back into schools full time. To accomplish this, we need to bring together students, educators, and school district leaders to listen and learn from one another as we work together to reopen schools quickly, safely, and equitably, and address the academic, social

and emotional needs of our students," said Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. "We are holding this Summit with the goal of sharing best practices and connecting leaders, educators, and students from across this country who are navigating this challenge together and finding creative solutions to support our students and bring them back to in-person learning. And we need to make sure we are listening to communities who have been hit the hardest by the pandemic. The time is now, and schools across the country must act immediately to get students safely back into school buildings." The sessions of the Summit include:

- Lessons from the Field: Implementing CDC's K-12 Operational Strategy to Keep Students, Educators, and Staff Safe ?Leaders and other representatives of school districts will highlight effective school reopening approaches that have a focus on collaboration and equity.

? Technical Assistance from CDC and ED: Implementing CDC's Guidance to Keep Students, Educators, and Staff Safe ? Technical experts from

CDC and ED will discuss CDC's K-12 Operational Strategy, ED's COVID-19 Implementation Handbook, and other resources; answer common question; and clarify misconceptions.

- Supporting All Students: Addressing the Academic, Social, and Emotional Needs of Students with a Focus on Equity ?Leaders and other representatives of school districts will share promising strategies to support the social, emotional, and academic development needs of students, with a particular focus on students who have been historically underserved and who have experienced the greatest disruption from the pandemic.

The Summit is one of a series of steps the Department is taking to provide support and resources to schools as they work to reopen quickly and safely. Last month, the Department released the first volume of the COVID-19 Handbook, which provided educators and staff with practical examples, roadmaps, and tools to implement CDC's K-12 operational strategy for in-person learning, including the recommended five key mit-

igation measures. The Department plans to release Volume 2 of the Handbook in April. Earlier this month, President Biden also directed all U.S. states and territories to prioritize vaccinations of teachers and staff in Pre-K-12 schools and child-care providers throughout this month, with the goal of all providing these frontline essential workers with at least one dose of a vaccine by the end of March.

More details about the National Safe School Reopening Summit, including registration information, will be released by the Department in the coming days.



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