

Teacher Recommendations on Stimulus Spending

August, 2021

Federal Stimulus Package

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress has passed over **\$200 billion in stimulus funds for education**. Given the growing need and budget shortfalls, these funds provide an important lifeline for school systems nationwide.

This presentation provides background on the legislation, and sets the stage for a conversation about how our state and districts can invest the funds most effectively.

Stimulus: Federal Investments in Education

Education Investments	
CARES Act	\$13.2 billion
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations	\$54.3 billion
ARPA: E-Rate	\$7.2 billion
ARPA: K–12 Education	\$125.4 billion
Total Federal Funding	\$200.1 billion

Source: Learning Policy Institute

American Rescue Plan

- + **Provided \$130 billion to help schools to safely reopen (of \$1.9 T)**
- + **These funds could be used to:**
 - + reduce class sizes and modify spaces so students and teachers can socially distance;
 - + improve ventilation & buy PPE
 - + hire more janitors and implement mitigation measures;
 - + ensure every school has access to a nurse;
 - + increase transportation capacity to facilitate social distancing on the bus;
 - + hire counselors
 - + close the digital divide;
 - + provide summer school or other support
 - + create and expand community schools

How much does our state get?

How much is our budget declining?

- + Under the latest stimulus package, our state will get \$724.5 million, which amounts to ~\$1,400 per student
- + According to estimates in November, 2020, our state will lose \$275 million due to state revenue shortfalls - cuts that could be partially passed along to schools

Therefore, one use of stimulus funds could be to protect key items from budget cuts (e.g., preserving teacher jobs, etc.)

The Opportunity: American Rescue Plan

- + \$1.9 trillion overall, \$125 billion for K-12 education
- + Biggest one-time investment in education possibly ever
- + How these funds are spent will probably impact education more than any other decision this year

Allowable Uses

- + **Local Education Agencies (LEAs)** (\$109.8 billion): Ninety percent of funding will be distributed to districts based on their relative share of Title I, Part A funding.
- + **Lost Learning Time** (\$6.1 billion): States must use at least 5% of their ESSER funding to address learning loss
- + **After-School Programs** (\$1.2 billion): A minimum of 1% of state funding must be used for after-school programs that address students' academic, social, and emotional needs.
- + **Summer Enrichment Programs** (\$1.2 billion): At least 1% of funding must be used by states to provide students with evidence-based summer learning programs.
- + **Administration Costs** (\$610 million): States can spend up to 0.5% of their funding on the costs of administering this program.
- + **Remaining State Funds** (\$3 billion): States will be allowed to use these funds on any of the allowable uses in the act

What education advocates are saying about how to invest in education

- + Ensure that every student has a functioning **device and tech support** to make remote learning possible
- + Invest in **safety measures** such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and school ventilation systems
- + Ensure there are sufficient resources for students who qualify for **special education services**
- + Ensure there are sufficient resources for students who qualify for **English language learner services** or who are emergent bilingual students
- + Invest in resources to support **parent engagement**
- + Invest in **grade-appropriate, culturally responsive instructional materials and curriculum**

What education advocates are saying about how to invest in education

- + Invest in **mental health resources** for students and teachers
- + Invest in **expanded learning time**, such as summer school, expanded learning day, and/or after school programming
- + Invest in high-dosage **tutoring and academic supports** to accelerate learning for students who may have lost instructional time or opportunities
- + Ensure that **new teachers receive mentoring and training**
- + Invest in **professional development** on educational technology, social and emotional learning, and accelerating learning

*In order to create this list, Teach Plus examined reports from organizations that include: Teach Plus, Ed Trust, Learning Policy Institute, CCSSO, TNTP, the Center for American Progress, Alliance for Resource Equity, Instruction Partners & ExcelinEd.

How should your district invest stimulus funds?

Please complete the questionnaire to share your views on how your state and district should invest stimulus dollars.

We will compile the results and create a summary to advocate to state and district decisionmakers.