

Federal Education Update

The Status of Federal Funding and What to Expect

Noelle Ellerson Ng

Associate Executive Director
Advocacy & Governance

February 2021

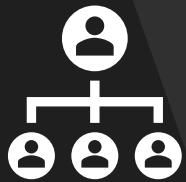


Overview



- **2020 Elections**
- **New Administration Priorities**
- **2020 COVID Legislation Recap**
- **FY21 Approps. & COVID 5 Package**
- **Advocacy Resources**
- **Q&A**

2020 Elections: House & Senate Shake-Ups



- **House Democrats** will be more divided on policymaking.
- **House Republicans** will feel more empowered to push back.
- **GA election results**
 - Democrats control the Senate. With VP Harris as tie-breaker, it will be easier for Biden to move on big Democratic Party priorities.
- **Leadership Shifts**
 - House Appropriations Leadership change! **Rosa De Lauro** now leads the Committee.
 - **Susan Collins** leads the Republican Minority on Senate Appropriations Committee
 - Can she fight **Mitch McConnell** for more \$?
She's not super fiscally conservative.
 - New Republican Minority Leader of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee: **Richard Burr**

Biden Administration



Top Education Priorities (Outside of COVID)

- Significant \$\$\$ increases, including tripling Title I.
- Infrastructure plan calls for \$100 billion for education.
- Universal Preschool
- Higher Ed: Free community college for all students

Biden COVID-19 Priorities

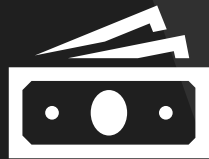
- 1** **'Get the virus under control.'** Biden said he would invoke the Defense Production Act to boost the nation's supply of personal protective equipment and make sure that each school has enough masks.
- 2** **National standards.** Biden said he would task federal public health officials with developing "effective national guidelines" for reopening schools, "not mixed messages and political ultimatums." But he would leave reopening decisions up to local officials.
- 3** **Emergency funding for schools.** Biden said Congress should pass a separate package of emergency appropriations to help schools adapt to Covid-19.
- 4** **Boost 'high-quality' remote learning.** Biden said he would task the Education Department to work with experts to share best practices and tools to help schools make sure online learning is effective during the pandemic.
- 5** **Funding to address Covid educational equity gap.** Biden proposes new federal grants to help educators come up with evidence-based strategies for remedying a lost year of education that particularly sets low-income students and students of color further behind.

COVID Legislation Recap



- **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.
- **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) (12/27/20)
 - Massive FY21 spending and COVID-relief package. Months in the making.

FY21 / COVID 5 (Appropriations)



FY21 Appropriations: Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (L-HHS-ED)

- **Most education programs received small increases or flat funding** due to federal budget caps.
- **Total ED Discretionary (excludes Pell Grants) = \$73.04 Billion (+1.1%)**
 - **ESSA Title I** = \$16.54 Billion (+1.4%)
 - ESSA Title II Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants = \$2.14 Billion (+0.5%)
 - ESSA Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants = \$1.2 Billion (+0.8%)
 - Education for Homeless Children & Youth = \$107 Million (+4.9%)
 - Native Hawaiian Education = \$37 Million (+1.4%)
 - Alaska Native Education = \$36 Million (+1.4%)
 - English Language Acquisition Grants = \$797 Million (+1.3%)
 - **IDEA/Special Education** = \$14.1 Billion (+1.3%)
 - Impact Aid = \$1.5 Billion (+1%)
 - **Career and Technical Education State Grants (Perkins/CTE)** = \$1.34 Billion (+4.1%)
- **Other programs (outside of ED)**
 - Head Start & Early Head Start = \$10.75 Billion (+1.3%)
 - Child Care Development Block Grant = \$5.91 Billion (+1.5%)
 - Preschool Development Grants = \$275 Million (Flat-funded at FY20 level)

FY21 / COVID 5 (COVID Relief)



COVID 5

- **Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) - \$82 billion**
 - **GEER Fund (Governors' Fund) - \$4.1 Billion**
 - \$2.75 Billion set aside for private schools w/ major limitations for use.
 - **ESSER Fund (K-12 Edu.) - \$54.3 Billion**
 - **Approx. 4 times more than CARES ESSER \$\$\$.**
 - 90% funds distributed to LEAs via Title I Part A (but these are **NOT** Title I funds). No private school funding via equitable services.
 - **Flexible funding!** Allowable uses include:
 - Any activity under ESSA, Perkins CTE, IDEA, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, or subtitle B of Title VII of McKinney Vento
 - Coordinating/responding to COVID health emergency
 - Activities to support special student populations
 - Training on sanitization and procuring cleaning supplies
 - Providing meals or technology to students
 - Providing mental health services, summer learning and supplemental learning, addressing learning loss, and administering assessments
 - School facility repairs and improvements (incl. machines or technology that deal with air quality)
 - Other general operations as needed (can include COVID testing).
- **HEER Fund (Higher Edu.) - \$22.7 Billion**

FY21 / COVID 5 (COVID Relief)

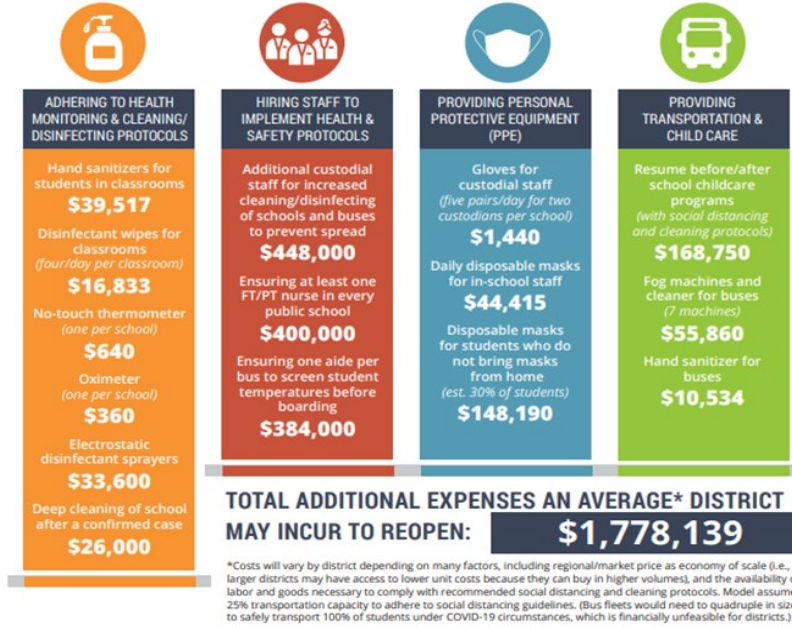


COVID 5

- **Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) Provisions (Cont.)**
 - **Employees/Contractors:** ESF grantees “shall, **to the greatest extent practicable**, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.”
 - **State Maintenance of Effort (MOE):** States shall provide assurances to maintain support in FY22 **at least at the proportional levels** of state support for K-12/higher education relative to the state’s overall spending (averaged over FYs 2017, 2018, and 2019). MOE waiver for states experiencing a “precipitous decline in financial resources.”
- **Child Care**
 - Child Care Development Block Grant - \$10.25 Billion
 - Head Start - \$250 Million
- **Unemployment Insurance**
 - **\$300/week through March 14, 2021.** Extends Pandemic Unemployment Assistance & Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation.
- **Tax Provisions**
 - **Extends Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) availability** until Dec. 31, 2021.
 - Extends/expands refundable Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) from CARES to keep employees on payroll/businesses afloat.
 - Expands qualifying expenses for the educator tax credit program to include PPE, disinfectants, and other supplies for preventing the spread of COVID-19.
 - **Extends FFCRA payroll credits** for paid sick and family leave through March 31, 2021. Tax credits are not extended to schools, but the mandate to provide paid leave is eliminated. Public sector employees who were previously covered are no longer guaranteed that leave.

WHAT WILL IT COST TO REOPEN SCHOOLS?

This document estimates some of the expenses school districts may incur in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and as they plan to reopen for the 2020-2021 school year. These calculations assume the statistics of an average* school district with 3,659 students, 8 school buildings, 183 classrooms, 329 staff members, and 40 school buses (transporting at 25% capacity, or 915 students, to comply with recommended social distancing guidelines).



This list of costs is not intended to be exhaustive but illustrates how the overall cost of school operations will substantially increase to safely reopen as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on K-12 education, please contact [ASBO International](#) & [AASA](#).



External References:
*Now What? Navigating K-12 Reopening, A Collaborative Planning Process? National Council on School Facilities, Working Document, May 2020.
*School Bus Driver Pay Rises as Shortage Worsens, Thomas McMahon, School Bus Fleet Magazine, November 2018.
*Total School Districts, Student Enrollment by State and Metro Area, Governing The Future of States and Localities, eRepublic, Accessed June 2020.

Advocacy Resources

AASA:

- AASA Policy Blog, *The Leading Edge*
- AASA Advocacy on Twitter (@AASAHQ)
- Weekly and Monthly Updates

Questions? Contact Us!



Noelle Ellerson Ng
nellerson@aasa.org
@Noellerson

Sasha Pudelski
spudelski@aasa.org
@SPudelski

Chris Rogers
crogers@aasa.org
@CXRogers16