This series of resources provides an analysis of federal education recovery funds. Each graphic is meant to support Network leaders’ planning, advocacy, and ongoing monitoring of these funds. Below, you’ll find:

1. A breakdown of the funding streams within March 2021’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) across K–12 and higher education. These graphics help clarify the scale and federal funds flowing to states and districts and to explain what the funds can be used for.

2. An overview of the timelines state and district leaders have to spend the funds for each of the following packages:
   - Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (signed into law March 2020);
   - Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSSA) Act (December 2020); and
   - American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act (March 2021).

Each package has funds specified for different streams that may include the following:
- Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)
- Emergency Assistance to Non–Public Schools (EANS) Program
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Funds
- Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund
- Homeless Children & Youth Funds
- Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG)
- Child Care Stabilization Funding

These graphics for each federal relief package show the different requirements, allowable uses, timelines, and deadlines. These details can help advocates identify critical windows for input, push for transparency, hold state and local leaders accountable, and ensure that these funds are used effectively and creatively to accelerate student learning and reinvent education.

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Part One: Deep Dive on the American Rescue Plan’s Funding Streams

The brief analyzes funding streams within ARP and visualizes funding across both K–12 and higher education and puts the scale of these funds in context. The majority of K–12 dollars within ARP are distributed through the ESSER III fund, and 90 percent of all ESSER III funds will flow directly to school districts. Funds for higher education in ARP are distributed through the HEER III fund, with the majority of funds allocated directly to higher education institutions and their students.

Page 1: Distribution of Elementary and Secondary School Funds to States
Page 2: Distribution of Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)
Page 3: Key Definitions & Allowable Uses in ARP

Part Two: Overview of Federal Relief Packages’ Timelines

The second brief details state and district timelines to plan for and spend funds within all three federal Covid-19 relief packages. Each funding stream’s timeline includes when the bill went into effect, the period of time funds are available, and when funds must be awarded and spent by each agency.

Page 4: Key Definitions & Technical Notes
Page 5: Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund
Page 6: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)
Page 7: Emergency Assistance to Non–Public Schools (EANS) Program
Page 7: K–12 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Funds
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Overview of American Rescue Plan’s Funding Streams

Distribution of Elementary and Secondary School Funds to States

**Key Facts**
- SEAs must allocate the $109.8 billion to LEAs within 60 days of receipt from federal government.
- LEAs must obligate the funds by Oct. 2024 and publish a plan for reopening within 30 days of receipt of funds.
- LEA ESSER Funds will be allocated based on the Title I formula, so low-wealth districts will receive more than wealthy districts.
- The plan adds spending requirements for SEAs and LEAs to protect funding levels through FY 2023 for school districts and schools with high percentages of students living in poverty.

**Total K12 Education Funding in Relief Packages**
- March 2020: $13.2 billion
- Dec. 2020: $57.1 billion
- March 2021: $128.6 billion

**Additional Resources**
The U.S. Department of Education has released a set of resources, including the following:
- Letter to Chief State School Officers
- ARP ESSER Methodology & Allocation Table
- ARP ESSER Fact Sheet Education
- Stabilization Fund ESSER Web Page

Source: congress.gov
Key Facts

- It is not clear if international students or those in Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) qualify.
- This package increased the share of funds going to public and private nonprofit IHEs from 89% to 91% compared to the last one and reduced the share for for-profit IHEs from 3% to 1%.
- The plan requires a maintenance of effort proportional to overall state planning through FY 2023.

Estimated Distribution of Funds
The American Council on Education has estimated how much each public and private nonprofit IHE would receive under the allocation formulas (see page 12 of this CRS report for more on the formulas).

View the simulations [here](#).

Total Higher Education Funding in Relief Packages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$14 billion</td>
<td>March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$23 billion</td>
<td>Dec. 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40 billion</td>
<td>March 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [WSJ](#)
Key Definitions & Allowable Uses for ARP

ESSER

- **Learning Loss**: LEAs & SEAs shall "address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that such interventions respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the student subgroups."
  - **Allowable Uses**: "Addressing learning loss by:
    1. Administering and using high-quality assessments that are valid and reliable, to accurately assess students’ academic progress and assist educators in meeting students’ academic needs, including through differentiating instruction;
    2. Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students;
    3. Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment; and
    4. Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education."

- **Summer Enrichment**: "Ensure evidence-based summer enrichment programs respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on specific student populations."

- **Comprehensive Afterschool**: "Ensure evidence-based comprehensive afterschool programs respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on specific student populations."

**HEERF**

- **Student Allowable Uses**:
  - Any component of student’s cost of attendance; and
  - Emergency costs that arise due to coronavirus, such as: tuition; food; housing; health care (including mental); child care.

- **Institutional Allowable Uses**:
  - Defray expenses associated with coronavirus including:
    1. Lost revenue;
    2. Reimbursement for expenses already incurred;
    3. Technology costs associated with a transition to distance education;
    4. Faculty and staff trainings; and
    5. Payroll.
  - Make additional financial aid grants to students.
  - Institutions must use a portion of their allocation for:
    1. Implementing evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress coronavirus in accordance with public health guidelines; and
    2. Conduct direct outreach to financial aid applicants about the opportunity to receive a financial aid adjustment due to the recent unemployment of a family member or independent student, or other circumstances.

**Other Education Funds in the Plan**

- $39.97 billion for Child Care Stabilization and Child Care and Development Block Grants
- $7.17 billion for E-Rate
- $5.6 billion to maintain and expand the Pandemic-EBT program
- $1 billion for Head Start
- $1 billion for Americorps
- $100 million for research and dissemination by the Institute of Education Sciences
Overview of Federal Relief Packages’ Timelines

Key Definitions

- For a more exhaustive list of terms and definitions related to federal education laws and programs, check out this primer.
- Federal law uses different terms to specify deadlines for states and districts to plan for and spend these relief funds. See below for the definitions of each of these terms, in the order they appear in the document:
  - **Allocate/Distribute**: Funds are considered ‘allocated’ or ‘distributed’ when they are subgranted, or dealt out, to the final agency (i.e. from the SEA to the LEA in ESSER or from the Governor to the university in GEER), but have not yet been spent. This is typically the first step.
  - **Obligate/Spend/Liquidate**: Funds are considered ‘obligated,’ ‘spent,’ or ‘liquidated’ when they have either been paid out or have been used to enter into a contract for materials or services.
  - **Remain Available**: The period of time funds are able to be used or spent before the money must be returned to the federal government.
  - **Award**: Funds are considered ‘awarded’ when they are subgranted, awarded a contract, or when the agency retains funds to provide direct services.

Technical Notes

- Many of the rules and requirements for ARPA funds have not yet been released by the federal Department of Education. Therefore, some of the language and requirements are subject to change in the coming weeks.
  - Specifically, the Department is likely to release additional information in the future on reporting requirements for districts and states.
  - At this time, we are unsure if there is any lag time between when the state allocates these funds and when the district receives them.
  - At this time, the Department has not announced the final deadline for spending ARPA’s Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funds.
  - At this time, the Department has not determined the process and timeline for allocating the $800 million set-aside for homeless youth. Funds will flow to SEAs, but additional agencies outside the districts may be eligible to receive these funds, such as community organizations.
- The deadlines included in these documents are inclusive of the Tydings Amendment, so unless otherwise noted (see: HEER funds), these are the final dates that agencies have to spend this money before any unspent, remaining funds must be returned to the federal government.
- $81 million of ARPA’s ESSER III dollars, or two-thirds of the total, have already gone to states. The remaining one-third of ESSER III funds will flow to states once districts submit their ‘Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan.’
  - Within 30 days of a district receiving ARP ESSER III funds, it must “make publicly available on its website a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. Before making the plan publicly available, the LEA must seek public comment on the plan.”
**Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund**

*Timeline for Distribution of Funds*

- **ESSER I**  
  - CARES ACT
  - Signed into law Mar. 27, 2020
  - Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to March 13, 2020
  - SEA must allocate all of its funds, including to LEAs, within one year (between Apr.-Jun. 2021)
  - All LEA funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2022

- **ESSER II**  
  - CRRSAA
  - Signed into law Mar. 27, 2020
  - Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to March 13, 2020
  - SEA must allocate funds to LEAs within sixty days of receipt from federal government (exact dates TBD)
  - SEA must allocate non-LEA funds within one year of receipt
  - All LEA funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2023

- **ESSER III**  
  - ARP
  - Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to March 13, 2020
  - SEA must allocate all of its funds, including to LEAs, within one year (Jan. 2022)
  - All LEA funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2024

- **Funds Distributions**
  - $13.2 billion (90% to LEAs)
  - $54.3 billion (90% to LEAs)
  - $123 billion (90% to LEAs)
### Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF)

#### Timeline for Distribution of Funds

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<th>CARES ACT</th>
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<td>$14 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signed into law Mar. 27, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds must be spent within one year of most recent HEERF grant distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>If institutions received HEERF II or III funds, then its deadline to spend its HEERF I funds will be one year from the most recent grant distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signed into law Dec. 27, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds must be spent within one year of most recent HEERF grant distribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>If institutions received HEERF III funds, then its deadline to spend its HEERF II funds will be one year from the HEERF III grant distribution</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>Funds must be spent within one year of distribution, but institutions may apply for a no-cost extension if applicable</td>
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Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) Program

Timeline for Distribution of Funds

**EANS ACT**
CARES did not have specific funds for non-public schools

- Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to March 13, 2020.
- Signed into law Dec. 27, 2020
- SEA must allocate funds to non-public schools within six months of receipt

Non-public schools must spend the funds by Sept. 30, 2023

**EANS CRRSAA**

- Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to March 13, 2020.
- Signed into law Mar. 11, 2021
- SEA must allocate funds to non-public schools within six months of receipt

$2.75 billion

Non-public schools must spend the funds by Sept. 30, 2023

**K-12 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Funds**

**K-12 IDEA**
CARES and CRRSA did not have specific funds for IDEA

- Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to March 13, 2020.
- Signed into law Mar. 11, 2021
- U.S. Department of Education must distribute funds for this fiscal year by Sept. 30, 2021

Funds will remain available through Sept. 30, 2023

- **EANS ARP**
- Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to March 13, 2020.
- Signed into law Mar. 11, 2021
- SEA must allocate funds to non-public schools within six months of receipt

Non-public schools must spend the funds by Sept. 30, 2023

**K-12 IDEA ARP**

- Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to March 13, 2020.
- Signed into law Mar. 11, 2021
- U.S. Department of Education must distribute funds for this fiscal year by Sept. 30, 2021

$2.6 billion

Funds will remain available through Sept. 30, 2023
### Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund

**Timeline for Distribution of Funds**

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<th>ARP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARP did not have specific funds for GEER</td>
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### Homeless Children & Youth Funds

**Timeline for Distribution of Funds**

**Homeless**

**CARES ACT & CRRSAA**

**ARP**

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<td>Signed into law</td>
<td>U.S. Department of Education must distribute funds by Sept. 30, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 11, 2021</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CARAS and CRRSA did not have specific funds for homeless children and youth*
Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG)

Timeline for Distribution of Funds

**CCDBG CARES ACT**
- Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to March 13, 2020.
- Signed into law Mar. 27, 2020
- Funds must be obligated by Oct. 30, 2022
- Funds must be liquidated by Oct. 30, 2023
- $3.5 billion

**CCDBG CRRSA**
- Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to March 13, 2020.
- Signed into law Dec. 27, 2020
- Funds must be obligated by Oct. 30, 2022
- Funds must be liquidated by Oct. 30, 2023
- $10 billion

**CCDBG ARP**
- Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to March 13, 2020.
- Signed into law Mar. 11, 2021
- Funds must be obligated by Oct. 30, 2023
- Grant funds must be liquidated by Oct. 30, 2024
- $15 billion

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Child Care Stabilization Funding

Timeline for Distribution of Funds

CARES and CRRSA did not have specific funds for child care stabilization.

**Child Care CARES ACT**
- Funds may be allocated for costs dating back to Jan. 31, 2020
- Signed into law Mar. 11, 2021
- U.S. Department of Health and Human services must distribute funds for this fiscal year by Sept. 30, 2021
- States must obligate grant funds by Sept. 30, 2022
- Grant funds must be liquidated by Sept. 30, 2023
- $24 billion

**Child Care CRRSA**
- Signed into law Mar. 11, 2021
- U.S. Department of Health and Human services must distribute funds for this fiscal year by Sept. 30, 2021
- States must obligate grant funds by Sept. 30, 2022
- Grant funds must be liquidated by Sept. 30, 2023
- $24 billion
Timeline Sources

- **ESSER I (CARES Act) and ESSER II (CRRSA)**
  - U.S. Department of Education's ESSER Home Page
  - U.S. Department of Education's ESSER I and II Fact Sheet

- **ESSER III (ARPA, full bill language here)**
  - U.S. Department of Education's ARPA ESSER III Home Page
  - U.S. Department of Education's ARPA ESSER III Fact Sheet

- **HEER Funds I, II, III**
  - HEER Funds I, II, III Comparison Chart (NASFAA)
  - U.S. Department of Education's CARES Act HEER Fund I Home Page
  - U.S. Department of Education's CRRSA HEER Fund II Home Page
  - HEER Fund II Reference Page (NASFAA)
  - HEER Fund III Reference Page (NASFAA)

- **ARPA's IDEA**
  - Overview of Funding (New America)
  - Overview of Funding (EdWeek)

- **Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) Program**
  - U.S. Department of Education's FAQ for CRRSA's EANS Program

- **ARPA's Allocation for Homeless Children and Youth**
  - Funding Matrix for ARPA Programs (American University)

- **GEER I and II**
  - U.S. Department of Education's FAQ for CARES Act's GEER I
  - U.S. Department of Education's GEER I and II Fact Sheet

- **ARPA's Child Care Stabilization**
  - State Implementation of the Historic COVID Child Care Relief and Stabilization Funds (The Center for Law and Social Policy)
  - Child Care in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Bipartisan Policy Center)

- **Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG)**
  - CCDBG COVID-19 Relief Funding At-a-Glance (First Five Years Fund)