

Federal COVID-19 Stimulus Package: Funds for K-12 education

On Wednesday, the U.S. Senate passed a \$2 trillion stimulus package, the Corona Virus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, which includes \$30.75 billion provided for the Education Stabilization fund. The U.S. House is expected to vote Friday on the stimulus package and then send it to the President. The summary below is based on the bill as passed by the U.S. Senate on March 25, 2020.

The Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund

The stabilization fund includes just under \$13.5 billion (43.9% of the amount) allocated to states based on the proportion of funding each state received under Part A of Title 1 of ESEA in the most recent fiscal year. The U.S. Secretary of Education is required to issue a notice inviting applications for the funding within 30 days of enactment of the bill, and to approve or reject applications within 30 days of receipt. States would allocate 90% of funds they receive to local education agencies (or charters that are LEAs) according to their proportion of Title 1 funding. Those funds could be used for the following purposes:

- Any activity authorized by ESEA, including Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native, IDEA, Adult Education and Family Literacy, Perkins and McKinney-Vento programs
- LEA coordination with state, local, tribal and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus
- Resources for principals and other school leaders to address the needs of their individual schools
- Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth
- Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies
- Staff training and professional development for LEA staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases
- Supplies to sanitize and clean LEA facilities
- Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including providing meals for students, providing technology for on-line learning, providing guidance for carrying out IDEA requirements, and ensuring continuity of education services
- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students to aid in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment
- Mental health services and support
- Activities related to summer learning and supplemental after-school programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care
- Other activities necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of LEA services and to continue to employ existing LEA staff

An entity receiving funds under the “Education Stabilization Fund” is required, to the greatest extent practicable, to continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus. A state’s application for funds shall include assurances that it will maintain support for education in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 at least at the average level of the state’s support in the three fiscal years prior to the enactment of the legislation. The U.S. Secretary of Education may waive this requirement to relieve the fiscal burden for states that have experienced a precipitous decline in financial resources.

Estimated Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Funding for SREB States

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|----------------|---------------------|
| ALABAMA | \$ 218,141,671.36 |
| ARKANSAS | \$ 133,958,580.73 |
| DELAWARE | \$ 44,277,473.13 |
| FLORIDA | \$ 765,568,204.56 |
| GEORGIA | \$ 457,315,276.77 |
| KENTUCKY | \$ 194,648,042.58 |
| LOUISIANA | \$ 290,707,356.47 |
| MARYLAND | \$ 206,320,198.21 |
| MISSISSIPPI | \$ 175,214,074.54 |
| NORTH CAROLINA | \$ 396,571,602.74 |
| OKLAHOMA | \$ 163,065,374.97 |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | \$ 216,714,165.73 |
| TENNESSEE | \$ 262,832,065.83 |
| TEXAS | \$ 1,286,816,070.39 |
| VIRGINIA | \$ 237,630,655.07 |
| WEST VIRGINIA | \$ 85,846,209.63 |

Note: Estimate based on Senate-passed bill using preliminary FY 2019 Title 1 allocations to LEAs for the current school year and is based on the assumption that funding goes to all states and territories that receive Part A Title I funding.

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