



President Biden signs \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 Relief Package

Update (March 18): The US Department of Education released [funding allocations](#) for all 50 states and territories. The USDE will begin making funds available this month. The state of Iowa will receive \$774 million (\$697,064,594 available to school districts after a 10% carve out for state education department). At the latest School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) meeting, Ann Lebo, Director of the Iowa Department of Education stated that stimulus funds will be given out on a reimbursement basis only. Additional guidance will be announced in the coming weeks.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also announced it will provide \$10 billion to states to support COVID-19 testing for K-12 teachers, staff, and students in schools.

The Congressional Research Service [released a report](#) detailing estimated state grants under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) under the stimulus bill. Iowa is estimated to receive \$29.4 million in additional IDEA funds.

President Biden, on Thursday, March 11, signed into law the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. The bill provides money for schools, unemployment benefits, additional tax relief for laid off workers, and other additional measures.

The bill provides more than \$122 billion for public schools and requires that at least 20% of the funding be used to address learning loss. Here is a breakdown of how the legislation distributes funding to schools:

- \$122 billion for public schools
 - 90% of funds will be distributed to school districts.
 - Money will be distributed through the Title 1 formula, as with previous stimulus legislation.
 - Continues use of ESSER funds through September 30, 2023.
- \$39 billion for higher education
- \$3 billion for IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- \$2.75 billion for governors to use for private schools.
- \$7.1 billion directed at the “homework gap.” Funds will flow through the E-Rate program to address the digital divide.
- States are required to set aside funds for the following purposes:
 - At least 5% to address learning loss
 - At least 1% for evidence-based summer enrichment programs
 - At least 1% for evidence-based, comprehensive afterschool programs
 - Reserve up to .5% for administrative costs with the remainder of funds intended to be used for statewide activities identified by the Iowa Department of Education.



Other provisions in the bill include:

- \$360 billion to state and local governments
- Unemployment benefits of \$300/week until September 6, 2021
- Direct payments of \$1,400/person for individuals earning up to \$75,000 and couples earning up to \$150,000; and \$1,400/dependent claimed on tax returns
- Up to \$10,200 in tax relief for laid off workers from households of incomes under \$150,000/year

If you have any questions, please contact IASB Government Relations Director Phil Jeneary at pjeneary@ia-sb.org