

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Summary of K–12 Education Provisions



Funding for Education (Education Stabilization Fund): \$30.75 billion*

- \$13 billion for K–12 state education agencies
 - \$14 billion for institutions of higher education
 - \$3 billion for governors to support K–12, higher education, and other education-related entities
 - \$600 million for states with the highest coronavirus burden, Bureau of Indian Education, and outlying areas
- *numbers do not add to total due to rounding*

Distribution of K–12 Funding (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund)

The amount of funding allocated to each state and district will be based on the relative amount of Title I funding the state or district receives. States are required to subgrant at least 90 percent of their funding to school districts (including charter schools that are considered school districts).

Use of Funds

Funds can be used for any allowable use under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act; McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Act; Native Hawaiian Education Act; Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act; and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. Funds also can be used for such purposes as

- coordinating with public health departments;
- conducting activities to address the needs of students from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth;
- purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity as well as assistive technology or adaptive equipment); and
- implementing activities to maintain the operation and continuity of services and to employ existing staff.

Maintaining State Funding

To receive funding, states must provide an “assurance” that they will provide at least as much funding for K–12 and higher education in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 as the average funding level for K–12 and higher education across the previous three fiscal years. However, this requirement can be waived by the Secretary of Education for states that experience a “precipitous decline” in financial resources.

Waivers

- Expedited process: Waivers for certain ESSA provisions will be approved or disapproved by the Secretary of Education within thirty days.
- Duration: Waivers will be in effect only for the 2019–2020 school year (except for maintenance of effort).
- Policies that can be waived under the expedited process include
 - annual state testing (the [process](#) for this waiver already has been disseminated to states);
 - state accountability and state and local reporting requirements related to testing and accountability;
 - maintenance of effort requirements for districts;
 - 15 percent limit on carryover Title I funds for districts; and
 - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant (Title IV-A) requirements for districts, including the requirement to expend specific percentages of funds on certain activities and the 15 percent limit on technology purchases.

A more detailed summary of the CARES Act, as well as the House and Senate proposals that preceded the final bill, is available [here](#). For additional resources, visit all4ed.org/coronavirus.