

The American Rescue Plan (ARP)

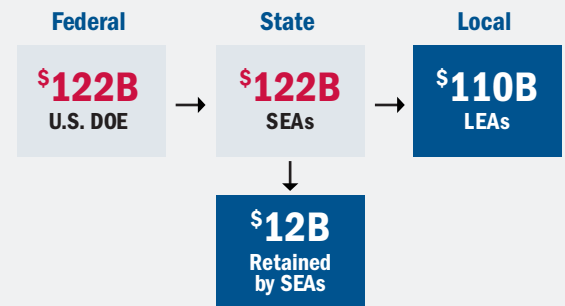
What is the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and what does it mean for schools and students?

- The ARP, or Covid-19 Stimulus, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, provides \$1.9 trillion in federal funding to accelerate the recovery from the economic and health effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The package includes **\$122 billion for K-12 public schools** with the goals of:
 - Safely reopening schools for in-person instruction as soon as possible;
 - Sustaining their healthy operations; and
 - Addressing significant academic, social, emotional and mental health needs of students.
- School districts can use the funds in a variety of ways, including improving ventilation, reducing class sizes and allowing for social distancing, purchasing personal protective equipment, and **hiring additional school nurses to support the health and well-being of students.**
- **These funds are in addition to the \$10 billion recently made available to states by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to pay for Covid-19 testing for K-12 teachers, staff and students.**

How will ARP funds be distributed to schools and how will funding decisions be made?

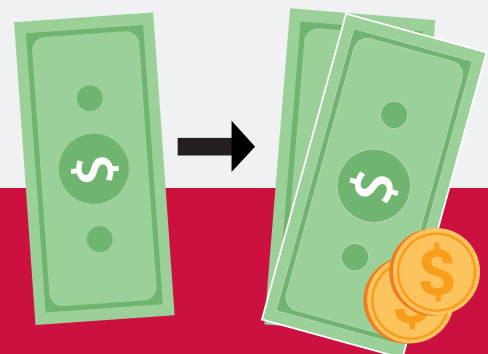
- The U.S Department of Education has pledged to begin making funds available to state educational agencies (SEAs) immediately, and it has announced how much of the \$122 billion in funding each state will receive based on the Title 1 funding formula (<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-education-announces-american-rescue-plan-funds-all-50-states-puerto-rico-and-district-columbia-help-schools-reopen>).
- **SEAs must distribute at least 90% of the funding to local educational agencies (LEAs)** based on the Title 1 formula.
- This funding can be used to fund obligations incurred through September 30, 2023.
- SEAs can retain up to 10% of the funding for activities, such as after-school and summer enrichment programs, to respond to students' academic, social and emotional needs and address disproportionate impacts of Covid-19 on underrepresented student subgroups.

ARP School Funding



- **LEAs, which are typically the central offices of local and regional school districts, will determine how nearly \$110 billion from the American Rescue Plan will be allocated, with input and approval from local and state school committees/boards.**
- **Nurses have an important perspective on what schools need to operate safely and support the health, wellness and learning of students, and local decision makers need to hear from us!**

School nurses are an excellent investment



For every \$1 invested in a full-time, registered school nurse, society would gain \$2.20¹.

¹JAMA Pediatr. 2014;168(7):642-648. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.5441

Talking Points for School Nurses on the ARP

- I'm sure we all agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has impeded the learning of students and undermined their physical and mental health.
- Prior to the pandemic, schools were already woefully understaffed with regard to nurses and other support personnel. As schools reopen, **nurses have a critical role in ensuring that schools effectively address issues related to the health and well-being of children**, including the immediate and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on youth.
- As you know, the ARP provides funds to safely reopen schools for in-person instruction as soon as possible and sustain those operations, and school districts can use the funds in a variety of ways, including **hiring more school nurses**.
- On behalf of the students in our district, I respectfully request this infusion of federal funding is invested in ways that will most effectively achieve the goals of safer classrooms and schools, improved student physical and mental health, and academic readiness. Among the investments that I believe will achieve this goal is (INSERT DISTRICT SPECIFIC request).

Today's school nurse is **so much more** than the stereotype of "ice, lice and band-aids."

School nurses serve as a **critical health hub** for students, ensuring that students are **ready for learning by managing complex, chronic conditions**; identifying and **addressing mental health issues**; **leveling the field** on health disparities and promoting healthy behaviors; enrolling children in health insurance and **connecting families to healthcare providers**; handling **medical emergencies**...and now, navigating through the COVID-19 pandemic by **testing, tracking and vaccinating** students and school personnel.



**School nurses are essential...
for healthy kids...healthy schools...and healthy communities.**