

HR 1319

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

The Senate passed the bill on a party-line vote 50-49 on Saturday, March 6th

The House passed the bill on March 10th by a vote of 220 – 211

The President signed into law on March 11 - Public Law No: 117-2

The final version of HR 1319 provides \$125.9 billion for K-12 education in the Education Stabilization Fund.

- **\$122.8 billion will be allocated to K-12 education.** It is estimated that California will receive just over \$15 billion with \$13.5 billion (90%) of that being allocated to K-12 local education agencies based on the Title 1 formula. LEAs will need to reserve 20% of these funds to address Learning Loss. The remaining \$1.5 billion is reserved for State level activities.
- Roughly **\$3 billion in additional aid for special education grants**, through a perfecting amendment adopted right before the final vote in the chamber. This is one-time funding.
 - \$2.6 billion in additional funding for state special education grants under IDEA for this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30. That's on top of the roughly \$12.9 billion in state grants for special education for this year in the regular federal budget.
 - \$200 million for special education preschool grants
 - \$250 million for infants and toddlers with disabilities
- **\$2.75 billion** out of the House bill's K-12 relief fund and **earmarked it for private schools.** Governors are to allocate this money; it would basically work the same way as a fund for private schools in the second COVID-19 relief bill. Governors are supposed to prioritize that pot of funding for schools serving disadvantaged students and private schools "most impacted" by the virus. Unlike prior relief bills, HR 1319 does not provide funding for equitable services.
- **There's a mandate for transparent school reopening plans** -- The amendment says that within 30 days of getting this new relief funding, school districts will have to publish "a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services." **If districts have already released such plans, they can use those to satisfy this requirement.**
- **There are also new maintenance of effort requirements** – each state will have to maintain education spending in 2022 and 2023 at levels "at least proportional" to those in 2017-2019. LEAs would also be prohibited from cutting per-pupil spending at high-poverty schools at a rate disproportionate to overall cuts across the LEA.
- **\$800 million help identify students experiencing homelessness, and to provide those students with wraparound services.** It is to help those students "attend school and participate fully in school activities." This funding would be set aside by states. By one estimate, schools have lost track of more than 1 in four homeless students during the pandemic.

- States and districts are **set aside roughly 25 percent of the money for summer school and extended-day programs to help students recover academically from the pandemic – 5% state set-aside and 20% local set-aside.** This can also include “**summer enrichment**” programs – recreation and similar programs beyond academic offerings this summer to help students.

Other elements of the bill that are worth noting include:

- \$350 billion in relief for state and local governments.
- \$7 billion in emergency aid to help students and educators connect to the internet and provide them with connected devices, through the federal E-Rate program. FCC will need to develop regulations regarding this appropriation.
- \$39 billion for early-childhood programs, including Child Care and Development Block Grants and a stabilization fund for child-care providers.