



CT Briefing on the  
American Rescue Plan  
March 24, 2021

# American Rescue Plan – Education Summary

## **Third major federal law delivering federal funds for COVID-19 relief:**

- CARES Act (March 2020): ~\$30B for K-16 education
- CRRSA – Phase IV (December 2020): ~\$82B for K-16 education
- American Rescue Plan Act (March 2021): ~\$165B for K-16 education



## **The American Rescue Plan (ARP) has several buckets of education funding, including:**

- Dedicated K-12 – Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF III)
- Dedicated Higher Education – Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III)

# Dedicated K-12 – ESSERF III

Connecticut will receive \$1.1B from the Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF III).

| Estimated Connecticut ESSERF III Allocations            |             |                        |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| LEA Subgrants (including designation for Learning Loss) | 90%         | \$995,327,887          |
| Learning Loss (SEA)                                     | 5%          | \$55,295,994           |
| Summer Learning   | 1%          | \$11,059,199           |
| After-School  | 1%          | \$11,059,199           |
| Administration Costs                                    | 0.5%        | \$5,529,599            |
| SEA Flex Funds  | 2.5%        | \$27,647,997           |
| <b>Total ESSERF III</b>                                 | <b>100%</b> | <b>\$1,105,919,874</b> |

90% of the total grant award, or an estimated \$995M, will be sub-granted by the state to local districts via the ESSA Title I formula.

Of this, 20%, or an estimated \$199M, must be reserved for “Learning Loss” interventions, which can be new or existing. (More about this on the following slide.)



|   |             |                        |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| LEA Subgrants (including designation for Learning Loss) | 90%         | \$995,327,887          |
| Learning Loss (SEA)                                     | 5%          | \$55,295,994           |
| Summer Learning   | 1%          | \$11,059,199           |
| After-School  | 1%          | \$11,059,199           |
| Administration Costs                                    | 0.5%        | \$5,529,599            |
| SEA Flex Funds  | 2.5%        | \$27,647,997           |
| <b>Total ESSERF III</b>                                 | <b>100%</b> | <b>\$1,105,919,874</b> |

A separate 5% of the total grant award, estimated at \$55M, must be spent by the state on Learning Loss interventions.

The ARP Act defines these as “evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after school programs, or extended school year programs” and requires that such interventions be responsive to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on student subgroups defined in ESSA.

|   |             |                        |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| LEA Subgrants (including designation for Learning Loss) | 90%         | \$995,327,887          |
| Learning Loss (SEA)                                     | 5%          | \$55,295,994           |
| Summer Learning   | 1%          | \$11,059,199           |
| After-School  | 1%          | \$11,059,199           |
| Administration Costs                                    | 0.5%        | \$5,529,599            |
| SEA Flex Funds  | 2.5%        | \$27,647,997           |
| <b>Total ESSERF III</b>                                 | <b>100%</b> | <b>\$1,105,919,874</b> |

The state must also set aside at least 1% of the total grant award, or an estimated \$11M, for “evidence-based summer enrichment programs” and another 1% for “evidence-based comprehensive afterschool programs.” These funds are in addition to the 5% set-aside for broad Learning Loss interventions, which can include summer enrichment and/or after-school programs.

These programs must also respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on student subgroups defined in ESSA.

|   |             |                        |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| LEA Subgrants (including designation for Learning Loss) | 90%         | \$995,327,887          |
| Learning Loss (SEA)                                     | 5%          | \$55,295,994           |
| → Summer Learning                                       | 1%          | \$11,059,199           |
| → After-School  | 1%          | \$11,059,199           |
| Administration Costs                                    | 0.5%        | \$5,529,599            |
| SEA Flex Funds  | 2.5%        | \$27,647,997           |
| <b>Total ESSERF III</b>                                 | <b>100%</b> | <b>\$1,105,919,874</b> |

After 0.5% for administrative costs, the state may spend 2.5% of the total grant award, of an estimated \$27.6M, on any of the above areas, additional LEA subgrants, or other allowable uses under the CARES Act.

|   |             |                        |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| LEA Subgrants (including designation for Learning Loss) | 90%         | \$995,327,887          |
| Learning Loss (SEA)                                     | 5%          | \$55,295,994           |
| Summer Learning   | 1%          | \$11,059,199           |
| After-School  | 1%          | \$11,059,199           |
| Administration Costs                                    | 0.5%        | \$5,529,599            |
| SEA Flex Funds  | 2.5%        | \$27,647,997           |
| <b>Total ESSERF III</b>                                 | <b>100%</b> | <b>\$1,105,919,874</b> |

# Dedicated Higher Education - HEERF III

Our national policy office estimates that Connecticut will receive \$371M from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF III).

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Estimated Amount That Must Be Used for Direct Student Grant Aid                         | \$185,706,500 |
| Estimated Amount That Can Be Used for Direct Student Grant Aid or Other Authorized Uses | \$185,706,500 |
| Estimated Total HEERF III   | \$371,413,000 |

## Mandatory Uses:

### 1. Direct Student Grant Aid:

- All colleges must spend at least 50% of their allocation on student grant aid provided directly to students.
- Colleges must “prioritize grants to students with exceptional need”
- No further restrictions on eligibility (e.g. DACA, international, distance students)
- Direct student aid grants, including to students exclusively enrolled in distance education, must be used for:
  - Any component of the student’s traditionally-defined cost of attendance; or
  - Additional emergency costs that arise due to COVID-19, including additional food, housing, health care and childcare expenses.

**2. COVID-19 Mitigation:** Evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress COVID-19 spread in accordance with public health guidelines. No minimum amount.

**3. Student Outreach:** Outreach to students and families about the opportunity to receive an upward adjustment in financial aid due to changed circumstances, including changes in income, employment of a family member, or other pandemic-related costs.

## Allowable Uses:

- Additional direct student grant aid above the required 50% of total funds minimum
- Defraying past expenses associated with COVID-19, including reimbursement for past technology costs, faculty training, and staff retention despite loss of enrollment
- Student support services, such as academic remediation, augmented mental health services, career counseling and job placement

# American Rescue Plan – CT Education Funding Estimates

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Estimated Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Funds | \$1,105,919,874 |
| Estimated Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds         | \$371,413,000   |
| Estimated Total K-16 Education Relief Funds               | \$1,477,332,874 |



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## **About Education Reform Now CT**

The state chapter of a national organization, Education Reform Now CT is a 501(c)(3) that operates as a think tank and policy advocate, promoting great educational opportunities and achievement for all by increasing equity, protecting civil rights, and strengthening the social safety net.