



## **American Rescue Plan Safely Reopening Schools for In-Person Learning**

Students need to return to their classrooms safely. We can't get our economy moving again if parents can't return to work – and parents can't return to work if they aren't confident that their children will be safe in their schools.

The American Rescue Plan will provide **\$170 billion** to help K-12 schools and institutions of higher education reopen safely for in-person learning and address students' needs. It will also make significant public health investments that will slow the spread of COVID-19 and make communities safer for students and their families.

Click [HERE](#) for School Closures by State

Click [HERE](#) to See if Educators Qualify for Vaccines in Your State

### **Safely Reopen K-12 Schools and Address Students' Needs**

Schools continue to face disruptions due to COVID-19 and need resources to reopen safely and to serve students whether they are learning in-person, remotely, or a hybrid of both. We must also work to make up for learning loss that exacerbates longstanding inequities in our education system.

The American Rescue Plan Act would provide \$130 billion – along with additional state and local relief – for K-12 schools to respond to students' needs and implement necessary public health protocols for the safe reopening of schools. Such activities could include implementing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state, Tribal, and local public officials, repairing ventilation systems, reducing class sizes for social distancing, purchasing PPE, and hiring additional staff to support students.

It also recognizes that students have lost significant ground in the wake of the pandemic and requires states and school districts to dedicate a significant portion of their funds to address learning loss and help students get back on track.

## **Vaccinate More Americans**

Increasing vaccinations and slowing the spread of COVID-19 will help get our schools and economy open faster. Educators are essential workers, and many states have given them priority for vaccinations. The American Rescue Plan Act dedicates \$160 billion for a national vaccination campaign and other health efforts, including testing, tracing, genomic sequencing, public health staffing, and supplies to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

## **Support Institutions of Higher Education & Their Students**

The American Rescue Plan Act would provide \$40 billion in funding to help colleges and universities and their students make it through the pandemic. Funding to institutions will stabilize them from massive budget shortfalls and cuts, and will help cover the costs of implementing public health protocols necessary to combat COVID-19. Public and non-profit institutions must use at least half of their funding for emergency financial aid grants to students to help them meet basic needs like housing, food, child care, and health care. These emergency financial aid grants are urgently needed for students who have experienced significant financial pressure from the economic crisis.

Higher education collectively employs approximately 3.5 million people across the United States and is a critical part of the economy. However, since the pandemic began, more than 650,000 jobs have been lost at colleges and universities, often disproportionately impacting people of color and low-wage workers.