

## American Rescue Plan in Minnesota

### *Using Flexible Education Funds to Support Student Learning*

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) was signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021 and focuses on returning to and maintaining, safe in-person learning for all students.

The ARP includes \$1.3 billion for E-12 education in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. By law, 90% of the funds were [allocated to schools](#) through a formula based on their allocations under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). On behalf of the state of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is required to spend 9.5% of its allotment in four areas of focus: addressing lost instruction time (identified as “Learning Recovery” in this document) (5%), after school programs (1%), summer enrichment (1%), and other state activities (2.5%). The remaining 0.5% can be used for grant administration.

Recognizing the needs of students across the state, MDE has committed funds from the other state activities and grant administration allotments to more directly support students as identified in this document, as “School Support.” The remaining funds from the other state activities and grant administration allotments will be dedicated to build and reinforce systems and structures within MDE to better support students, families and educators. The 10% in flexible education funds totals \$132 million.

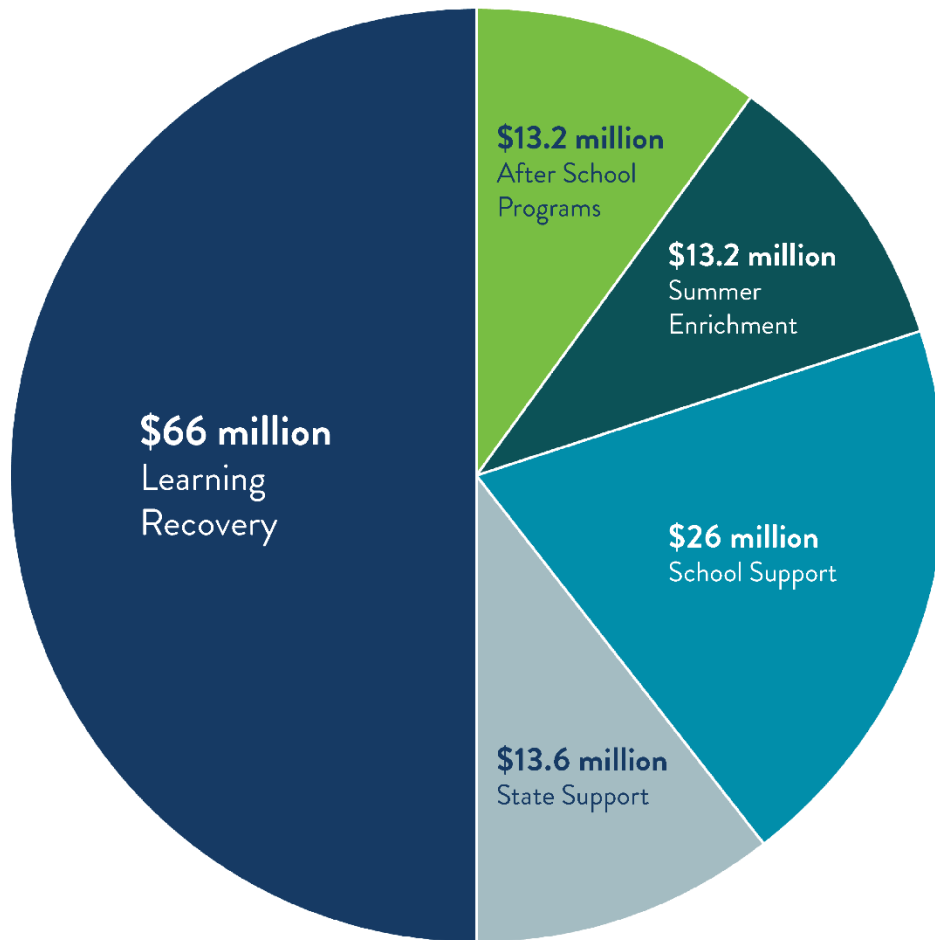
### Community Engagement

MDE recognizes that seeking input from diverse stakeholders is essential to developing a plan to use flexible funds that is responsive to the needs of students, families and educators. Outreach through input sessions, public comment and direct conversations connected with a variety of Minnesotans impacted by the Department’s work including, but not limited to:

- students;
- families;
- individuals representing Minnesota’s 11 tribal nations, tribal education leaders, as well as representatives from other organized Indigenous groups such as urban American Indians;
- teachers;
- school and district staff;
- superintendents;
- charter school leaders;
- unions representing teachers and school staff; and,
- civil rights organizations; and,
- stakeholders representing the interests of students receiving special education services, English learners, students experiencing homelessness, students in foster care, migratory students, students who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

Read more about MDE’s community engagement in [American Rescue Plan in Minnesota: Community Engagement](#).

## Breakdown of Flexible Education Funds: \$132 million



### Learning Recovery - \$66 million

MDE will allocate funds directly to public schools to support those closest to our students using a formula based on the number of historically underserved students (HUS) with a particular emphasis on students receiving special education services.

- HUS is defined as students of color, American Indian students, students eligible for free or reduced-priced meals, students receiving special education services, students who are English learners and students experiencing homelessness.
- A comparison will be made to what districts received from the 90% title-based allocation and only unmet need will be funded.

All public schools receiving funds must select evidence-based strategies from the MDE-identified list, detailed in [American Rescue Plan in Minnesota: State Priority List for Learning Recovery](#). Schools are encouraged to use these funds for community-based partnerships as well as ensure meaningful engagement is done locally to determine strategies in coordination with other local ARP funds.

## After School Programs - \$13.2 million

MDE will allocate funds to Ignite Afterschool, an organization and network leader with expertise in evidence-based after school programming, for grant distribution. Fifty percent of the funds will be directed to community organizations. The other 50% of the funds will be directed to culturally specific community organizations to ensure their expertise is recognized and supported.

## Summer Enrichment - \$13.2 million

MDE will allocate funds for grant distribution with 50% of the funds directed to community organizations and 50% of the funds directed to culturally specific community organizations to ensure their expertise is recognized and supported.

## School Support - \$26 million

MDE has allocated \$23 million in other state activities funds and \$3 million in grant administration funds to expand systemic supports for students. This funding will provide grants to public schools in the following areas:

- \$5 million dedicated to Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).
- \$5 million dedicated to full-service community schools.
- \$4 million dedicated to expanding rigorous coursework (AP, IB, CTE, PSEO).
- \$3 million dedicated to trauma informed/anti-bias instructional practices training (inclusive of paraprofessionals).
- \$3 million dedicated to non-exclusionary discipline training and policy refinement.
- \$2 million dedicated to Life Skills/Transition Programs.
- \$2 million dedicated to mentoring program for new staff in the teaching profession.
- \$1.5 million dedicated to early learning (ParentChild+ and Reach Out and Read).
- \$500,000 Tribal/State Relations Training for public school leaders.

## State Support - \$13.6 million

The remaining \$10 million will be dedicated to build and reinforce systems and structures within MDE to better support students, families and educators, including:

- \$6 million dedicated for Ed-Fi to prioritize data disaggregation.
- \$2 million dedicated to the creation of a public engagement division within MDE that will support public schools' efforts to provide translated materials for families.
- \$2 million dedicated for MDE for non-grant administrative related supports including an enterprise COVID-19 response project manager, an enterprise COVID-19 response assistant, and a school nurse.

The remaining \$3.6 million of grant administration funds will be used to support MDE administration, monitoring, technical assistance and data gathering for ARP funds given to public schools and community organizations.

## Total - \$132 million