

COVID-19 Education Relief Fund

The US federal government passed a second round of COVID-relief funding at the end of 2020. In total, the relief package amounted to \$900B in aid, including more than **\$81B for schools and institutions of higher education**. Here are some quick facts on how the funding breaks down:



K-12 Education Relief Fund \$54.3B

- 90% must be distributed to public school districts by formula, similar to CARES Act (not competitive)
- Largely intended for the same purposes as CARES Act funding with 2 new use cases:
 1. To address learning loss in students
 2. To repair and update school facilities
- Cannot be used for or distributed to private schools
- Funds must be spent by September 2022



Higher Education Relief Fund \$22.7B

- Distributed to institutions of higher education by a different formula than the CARES Act. The new formula considers a few new factors beyond full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment, including total headcount and Pell eligible FTE prior to the COVID crisis.
- Of grants received by institutions, 50% may be used for institutional support and 50% must be used for direct aid to students.
- Funds must be spent by September 2022.



Governor's Emergency Fund \$4.1B

- At the discretion of the governor to be used for K-12 or higher education related purposes related to COVID-19
- \$2.75B reserved for private schools
- Funds must be spent by September 2022



Broadband \$4.5B

- \$3.2B for low- or no-cost broadband and hotspot access for low-income families
- \$1B for tribal broadband infrastructure deployment
- \$300M for rural broadband infrastructure deployment
- These funds are not available directly to school districts. No additional funding or flexible added to e-rate program.