

American Rescue Plan FAQ

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the federal government made one of the most dramatic attempts of our lifetimes to give communities the tools to rebuild from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As they plan for how to spend these funds, district leaders should Invest Forward by prioritizing support for students' pathways to postsecondary and career success.

Below are some key questions and answers about ARP resources and regulations for district and state leaders to consider as they plan for spending their funds.

As a district leader, how much of my ARP funding is available for investment in postsecondary pathways? What types of postsecondary pathways support investments are permitted?

Districts have a significant degree of flexibility in how they spend their ARP funds. They are required to dedicate 20% of total local funding allocations to addressing learning loss, which can include support to ensure students are academically prepared to succeed in higher education. The many allowable uses of the remaining funds include:

- Any activity authorized by ESEA, IDEA, The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, or Perkins
- Activities to address the unique needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth

Examples of allowable support for postsecondary pathways provided by the U.S. Department of Education include additional counseling capacity to assist with college and career exploration, navigating the application process, and FAFSA completion; summer bridge programs to support successful transitions; and application fees for low-income students.

Can we make investments to support students from the class of 2020 whose postsecondary transitions were negatively impacted by the pandemic?

Yes. As with Perkins V, district leaders may use ARP funds to support students who graduated in the class of 2020 or 2021 but have not yet successfully transitioned to college or a career through initiatives such as college or career counseling, application support, and more.

Where can I find additional guidance?

Check the U.S. Department's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's [ESSER page](#) for past and new guidance related to investment of these funds. The Alliance for Excellent Education has recently released a new resource focused specifically on pathways investments. Finally, a roundup of general stimulus resources is available [here](#).