



A Union of Professionals

Higher Education Highlights in HEROES Act

State Fiscal Stabilization Fund: \$90 billion divided among elementary and secondary schools (65 percent), **public postsecondary institutions (30 percent)**, and state activities (5 percent). States must commit to maintain their own K-12 and higher education funding in order to access this funding. This flexible funding can support:

- Making up instructional time, including teacher, school leader and classified school employee personnel costs;
- School-based supports for affected students, families and staff, including counseling, mental health services, family engagement efforts and the coordination of physical health services;
- Sanitation and cleaning for schools and school transportation;
- Professional development for school-based staff on trauma-informed care to restore the learning environment;
- Educational technology, including assistive technology;
- Coordination between state educational agencies and public health departments for emergency planning, response and recovery;
- Training for college and university faculty and staff to use technology and services related to distance education;
- General expenditures for institutions of higher education for expenses associated with a disruption in services or operations related to the coronavirus, including defraying expenses due to lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, and payroll; and
- Emergency financial aid to postsecondary students for housing, food, technology, healthcare and child care.

Additional support for institutions of higher education: \$10.15 billion to institutions of higher education, including:

- \$7 billion reserved for private nonprofits distributed by formula (75 percent Pell Grant recipient enrollment, 25 percent total enrollment).
- \$1.7 billion reserved for Minority Serving Institutions/historically black colleges and universities.
- \$1.4 billion reserved for a broad swath of institutions with “unmet needs related to the coronavirus,” including exclusively online institutions and some for profit colleges providing short term programs.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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Clarifies Congressional intent regarding CARES Act funding:

- Expressly allows all higher education students, including DACA recipients, undocumented students, and part-time students, to access CARES Act emergency grant aid.

Student debt relief:

- Cancels \$10,000 of student loan debt for “economically distressed” federal loan borrowers.
- Cancels \$10,000 of private student loan debt for “economically distressed” borrowers.
- Defines economically distressed student loan borrowers as those in default, delinquent, in forbearance, or making \$0 monthly income-driven payments prior to March 13, 2020.
- Applies the CARES Act relief of no interest and suspended payments to all student loans (including private).
- Extends the CARES Act relief of no interest/no payments for at least an additional year (until September 30, 2021 or later, depending on economic conditions).
- Includes full student loan relief for borrowers who, according to Education Department or state AG findings, were defrauded by the schools they attended.
- Makes some Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program improvements (e.g., applicants don’t have to be employed in public service at time of forgiveness, and medical workers in public hospitals in Texas and California may qualify even though hired by a private employer).