



Updated *Heroes Act*

Education and Community Support Provisions

Emergency Financial Relief for Children, Students, States, Schools, and Institutions

Invests \$58.7 billion in early childhood care and education to support young learners and working parents.

- **\$50 Billion** for a child care stabilization fund to ensure child care providers are able to stay afloat during temporary periods of low enrollment and have the resources to continue serving children and families in a safe and enriching environment.
- **\$7 Billion** for child care providers to serve individuals who are required to work during the public health emergency and provide such families with tuition relief.
- **\$1.7 Billion** for Head Start programs to acquire necessary resources to continue serving children and families living in poverty, including personal protective equipment, additional personnel, and educational technology.

Provides \$436 billion in emergency funding for state and local governments, which are facing budget shortfalls that could lead to mass teacher layoffs and deep cuts to public education.

- Without immediate and significant federal assistance, state and local governments will be forced to balance their budgets on the backs of students and teachers. The *Heroes Act* will save hundreds of thousands of jobs and help avert devastating cuts to funding for public education.

Invests \$225 billion in direct emergency funding for students, schools, and institutions of higher education to maintain access to education.

- The bill invests more than \$225 billion in funding for school districts, and institutions of higher education, which are facing a surge of unexpected costs and need financial assistance to reopen safely. The bill includes:
 - **\$208 Billion** to the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund for grants to States to support elementary and secondary schools and public postsecondary institutions.
 - **Nearly \$175 billion** for K-12 schools to continue delivering instruction, including purchasing educational technology and hotspot devices, expanding summer learning and afterschool programs, training and professional development, addressing learning loss, and maintaining school personnel employment.
 - **Nearly \$27 billion** to support public institutions of higher education and their students.
 - **More than \$4 billion** to governors to award funding to school districts and institutions of higher education.
 - **\$5 billion** to support emergency K-12 school facilities repairs, such as HVAC and ventilation repairs, necessary to reopen safely
 - **\$100 million** for Project AWARE grants to support student mental health.

- **Nearly \$12 billion** in direct emergency funding for institutions of higher education that have suffered severe financial losses due to COVID-19, including \$3.5 billion for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority Serving Institutions.

Relief for Student Loan Borrowers

The *Heroes Act* extends the duration and scope of the suspension of student loan payments included under the *CARES Act*. The bill:

- Extends the suspensions of student loan payments provided under the *CARES Act* from September 30, 2020 to September 30, 2021. No interest accrual is also extended until September 30, 2021 or until the economy shows initial signs of improvement.
- Expands the type of loans eligible for relief by including commercially held Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL), institutionally held Perkins loans, and Health and Human Services student loans, in addition to all direct federal loans and federally held FFEL.
 - For commercially held FFEL, institutionally held Perkins loans, and Health and Human Services student loans, this provision would be retroactive to March 13, 2020.

The *Heroes Act* protects access to PSLF for student loan borrowers who consolidate their loans in response to COVID-19 and ensures doctors in California and Texas can access Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). The bill:

- Allows student loan borrowers to consolidate their loans without losing prior payments for purposes of PSLF and income-driven repayment plans.
- Ensures that doctors in California and Texas who are employed at non-profit hospitals qualify for PSLF despite state law.

Additional Relief and Protection for Postsecondary Students

The *Heroes Act* strengthens financial relief for students to help maintain their access to education. The bill:

- Prevents the Secretary of Education from imposing restrictions on the populations of students who receive emergency financial relief under the *CARES Act and Heroes Act*.
- Ensures emergency financial aid, including emergency aid received under the *CARES Act and Heroes Act*, is not counted as income for individuals applying for federal aid through the FAFSA.
- Helps students who are receiving or have applied for unemployment benefits.
- Maintains flexibility for institutions to pay federal work-study students even if they are unable to work due to COVID-19.
- Extends flexibility for foreign institutions to continue to offer classes via distance education.
- Ensures that college students do not lose SNAP eligibility due to the loss of a work-study job during the pandemic.
- Directs the Secretary of Education to conduct undercover investigations to prevent aggressive and predatory recruitment of students.
- Requires additional protections for students in the event of a school closure.

Preparing the Country for a Strong Recovery

The *Heroes Act* provides legislative flexibilities and agency requirements to prepare for the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill:

- Provides a waiver allowing the use of funds to replace expired or spoiled food at vending facilities under the Randolph-Sheppard program.
- States must provide assurances that all students with disabilities are afforded their full rights under IDEA and Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act*, including all rights and services outlined in individualized education programs, individualized family services plan and in section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act*.
- Provides time-limited flexibility for the 2020-2021 school year to ensure 21st CCLC subgrantees are able to provide virtual programming and care for school-aged children during the school day when in-person instruction is not available for all students.
- Allows school districts to submit previously collected student enrollment information from the 2019-2020 school year in Impact Aid grant applications for the 2020-2021 school year to the Secretary.
- Requires the Secretary to use the greater of school year 2018-2019 or school year 2019-2020 migrant student enrollment data to make fiscal year 2021 allocations to States for the Migrant Education Program.