

Create the public schools and colleges our students deserve

There are *new* resources; there are *no* excuses

Through the *American Rescue Plan Act*, the federal government is making an unprecedented investment in public education from prekindergarten through higher education. Now is the time to organize and advocate for how that money is spent to benefit our students and our communities.

- PreK-12 school districts are receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, while public colleges and universities are getting money from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Further, municipalities will be receiving resources through the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF). Visit [massteacher.org/arparesources](https://www.massteacher.org/arparesources) to see how much money your campus, district, and municipality is receiving.
- These funds will be a bridge to economic recovery and better-resourced, fully staffed, racially just and healthy schools and colleges. They are designed to address long-term systemic inequities and funding gaps in public education that were exposed during the pandemic.
- **Think BIG!** There are hundreds of millions of dollars coming to public schools and colleges. Consider any and all staff and student needs. Examples include ensuring that we have healthy and safe buildings; securing smaller class sizes and caseloads to address students' academic, social and emotional needs; providing living wages for Education Support Professionals and adjunct faculty; and fostering racial and social justice in our schools and colleges.
- Organize a forum or similar event, both to educate union members and public education allies about these funds and to determine priorities for how these funds should be used and how to advocate for such spending.
- In addition, the *Student Opportunity Act* puts us on track to continue receiving increased state investment in preK-12 schools, but public colleges and universities still need significant increases in state funding, which is the aim of the *Cherish Act*. Passage of the proposed Fair Share Amendment, which would impose a small additional tax on incomes above \$1 million, will sustain the improvements that we make NOW and allow our public schools and colleges to keep pace with the needs of our students and communities.

To access additional resources and learn more about what you can do, visit [massteacher.org/arparesources](https://www.massteacher.org/arparesources).

