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#LearningTuesdays

Making Sense of COVID-19 Federal Stimulus Bills Supporting Children and Families

Housekeeping Tips

- ✓ Introduce yourself in the Chat box
- ✓ All attendees are participating in Listen Only mode
- ✓ Post your questions in the Q&A box
- ✓ Webinar is being recorded & will be made available
- ✓ Please take the brief evaluation survey posted during Q&A

Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars:

PRODUCTIVE PARENT/TEACHER PARTNERSHIP WEBINAR

Using Behavior Science to Help Families Help Kids

Tuesday, Apr. 21, 3 p.m. ET/12 p.m. PT

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State-Level Approaches to Supporting Parent/Teacher Partnerships

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EMERGING MODELS WEBINAR

Using the Early Literacy Screening App to Identify Reading Challenges

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GLR Week 2020

Stay tuned – GLR Week 2020 is going virtual!

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Making Sense of COVID-19 Federal Stimulus Bills Supporting Children and Families

Special GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinar

April 21, 2020



Panelists



John B. King, Jr.

10th U.S. Secretary of Education
President and CEO
The Education Trust



Denise Forte

Senior Vice President for
Partnership and Engagement
The Education Trust

Panelists



Ruth Friedman

Child and Family
Policy Consultant



Etienne Melcher Philbin

Senior Policy Analyst
Food Research and Action
Center (FRAC)



Farrah Freis Buff

Senior Technical
Advisor
Child Nutrition Programs
FNS/USDA

Discussant



Sharon Darling

President and Founder
National Center for Families
Learning



April 21, 2020

A High Level View: *What the Federal Stimulus Means for P-12 Public Education*



The Education Trust

Setting the Context

John B. King Jr.

President and CEO, The Education Trust

10th U.S. Secretary of Education under the Obama Administration

Federal Stimulus

Denise Forte

Senior Vice President for Partnerships and Engagement

The Education Trust

Federal Stimulus

- Overview of Congressional Action to Date
 - Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020 ([H.R.6074](#))
 - The Families First Coronavirus Response Act ([H.R.6201](#))
 - Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([S. 3548](#))
- Overview of Major Education Provisions in the CARES Act
 - Education Stabilization Fund
 - P-12 Provisions
 - How and When Funds Get to States and Institutions

Education Stabilization Fund

- Education Stabilization Fund
 - \$30.75 billion in total provided for K-12 and higher education
 - Provides \$3 billion for governors' discretionary spending on K-12 or higher education purposes
 - \$13.5 billion for K-12
 - \$14.25 billion for higher education

P-12 Provisions

- Education Stabilization Fund - \$13.5 billion
 - Distributed using ESSA's Title I formula to states and to districts
 - Funds can be used to plan for long-term closures, sanitize schools, purchase educational technology, provide mental health supports, etc.
 - Maintenance of Effort (MOE) required as a condition of funding (can be waived)
 - Funds must be spent by September 30, 2021
- Increased federal waiver authority for the U.S. Secretary of Education
 - States may apply for waivers to ESSA for annual assessments and accountability, and associated reporting, including MOE and Title I carryover limitations
 - Secretary has 30 days to submit recommendations to Congress for other waivers to IDEA, ESEA, and CTE
- Support for specific programs and populations
 - Increases funding for Head Start (\$750 million), CCDBG (\$3.5 billion), and runaway and homeless youth (\$25 million)

How and When Funds Get to States and Institutions

- K-12 Funds

- Education Department (ED) must develop and send out an application this month
- States must use ED's application to apply for these funds
- ED has 30 days from receipt to approve and release funds
- States will receive funds and then allocate them to districts
- Best guess on ETA for state K-12 funds: June 2020

- Governor Funds

- Similar process to K-12 funds
- National Governors' Association (NGA) has asked for funds to be distributed as quickly as possible

Implications for P-12

What should state leaders be doing to ensure equity during the coronavirus response?

1. Create and maintain **centralized, clear, and regular communication** with community stakeholders
2. Maintain and strengthen **critical supports for students and families in need**
3. Provide guidance and resources to districts on **educational services for vulnerable populations**
4. Support districts to **develop plans with short- and long-term solutions** to address COVID-19 challenges
5. Ensure federal stimulus funds are **distributed and used equitably**

How should states ensure federal stimulus funds are distributed and used equitably?

- Ensure districts **distribute funds equitably**
- Ensure districts have an **equity-centered plan** to use funding
- Use state funds to meet the needs of **students who are the most vulnerable**
- **Publicly report** on — and ensure districts publicly report on — the use of these funds
- **Ensure additional funding** (e.g., governors' discretionary funding) **is allocated equitably**



April 21, 2020

A High Level View: *What the Federal Stimulus Means for P-12 Public Education*



The Education Trust

COVID-19 and the Early Care and Education Landscape

Ruth Friedman, PhD, Child & Family Policy Consultant

Mix of Child Care Directives Right Now

- 16 states have closed child care with options for emergency child care
- Many states require modifications to number of children in room or center
- Many programs closed due to low enrollment and revenue
- Most states have adjusted rules to prioritize and provide child care for essential workers

State Emergency Child Care Rules

- Paying for child care of essential workers regardless of income
- Increasing reimbursement rates to providers
- Bonus/hazard pay
- Suspending/relaxing licensing standards
- Grants to incentivize child care programs to remain open
- Grants for enhanced hygiene practices

CDC Guidance to Child Care

- Implement [social distancing strategies](#)
- Intensify [cleaning and disinfection efforts](#)
- Modify [drop off and pick up procedures](#)
- Implement [screening procedures up arrival](#)
- Maintain an adequate ratio of staff to children to ensure safety
- When feasible, staff members and older children should [wear face coverings](#) within the facility



Federal Response for Child Care

\$3.5B in Child Care Funding in CARES Act

- Continue payments to child care providers during closure or decreased enrollment to help providers stay open or reopen
- Provide child care assistance without regard to family income to essential workers
- Provide funding to providers who were not participating in CCDBG for cleaning, sanitation, and other activities to maintain or resume operations



Federal Response for Child Care

Cash Assistance

- Expanded Unemployment Insurance Benefits
- Paycheck Protection Program
 - 2.5x monthly payroll for 8 weeks – forgiven if 75% spent on payroll
- Emergency Injury Disaster Loan Program
 - Grant of \$10,000
 - Loan up to \$2 million
- Tax credits

What's Next at the Federal Level?

Advocates asking for \$50 billion in child care assistance in next federal covid package

Additional funding for small business loans

Head Start



- Unverified source - about 96% programs are not operating
- Office of Head Start directed programs to continue to pay wages and benefits for staff unable to work because of covid
- \$500 million from CARES Act to run supplemental summer programs for programs who show capacity and –
 - Prioritize children transitioning to kindergarten in fall 2020
 - Children with IEPs
- \$250 million from CARES Act for one-time specific actions related to COVID
 - Mental health services, supports, interventions
 - Coordination, preparedness, and response with other agencies
 - Meals and snack not reimbursed by USDA
 - Training and professional development on infectious disease management
 - Supplies and services for sanitizing and cleaning
 - Actions necessary to maintain and resume operation

What happens next? Challenges and Opportunities in Early Care and Education

Early care and learning system is mainly private pay for a public good

The U.S. primarily pays for early care through low wages and parent fees

Most Kids Not in Publicly-Funded Programs

21 million children birth - age 5

44% 4-year olds in public PreK

16% of 3-year olds in public PreK

870,000 children get child care assistance

Child-Focused Concerns

- Safety
- Lost learning
- Stress and trauma
- Family economic stress

Infrastructure Challenges

- Reopening – safety guidelines
- Workforce training and retention
- Out of business
- Uneven quality before COVID



Meeting Students' Nutritional Needs during the Pandemic

Etienne Melcher Philbin | Senior Policy Analyst

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The Need



- 22 million children rely on free and reduced-price school lunch
- More children are now eligible
- Schools are closed
- Social distancing is critical

Federal Nutrition Programs



- School Meals
- Summer Nutrition Programs
- Afterschool Meals and Snacks
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- WIC

Pandemic EBT



- Created through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act
- Provides an EBT card to purchase food at retailers that accept SNAP
- Designed to provide nutrition resources to families to replace school meals

Who is Eligible?



Children certified for free or reduced-price school meals



Children who attend schools that offer free meals



Newly eligible families

Value of the EBT Card



Free
Lunch
\$3.50

Free
Breakfast:
\$2.20

Per day:
\$5.70

4 weeks:
\$114 per
child

State Plans

- Required to be submitted and approved before states can provide benefits
- Submitted by the SNAP and state child nutrition agency officials
- USDA issued [P-EBT guidance](#) and an [FAQ](#) on developing the plans

State Plans



- How they will provide P-EBT benefits to both SNAP and non-SNAP households
- Amount of the benefit
- Anticipated implementation date
- Communications

Things to Consider

- How to provide benefits to as many children as seamlessly as possible
- Utilizing existing data as broadly as possible
 - State education database
 - Medicaid and potentially CHIP data
 - Consider using the same automated systems for issuing P-EBT as they have for Disaster SNAP

School Meals

- Summer Nutrition Programs available during unanticipated school closures
- Schools, food banks, parks and rec, YMCA's, others can provide meals
- Can operate alongside Pandemic EBT

Meal Flexibilities



- Non-Congregate
- Multiple meals
- Meals service times
- Meal components
- Afterschool Suppers and Snacks

Overcoming Barriers

- Locate sites throughout the community
- Utilize bus routes
- Meal delivery to children's homes
- Partnerships



Legislative Priorities



- Boost SNAP benefits by 15%
- Increase the minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30
- Suspend SNAP administrative rules
- Extend Pandemic EBT through the summer

Resources



- [Pandemic EBT: A Critical Opportunity for States](#)
- [COVID-19 Updates](#)
- [Guide to Ensuring Children Have Access to Nutritious Meals](#)
- Coming soon: Communications Toolkit

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Questions & Discussion

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