

Provide At Least \$175 billion To Stabilize Education Funding & Reopen Schools Safely



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Congress needs to appropriate *at least* \$175 billion more for the Education Stabilization Fund to distribute to states to address COVID-19’s impact on students and educators. Dedicated funding for personal protective equipment (PPE)—for students as well as educators—is essential to ensure schools and campuses can reopen safely.

GROWING INEQUITIES

- ▶ State and local governments are on target to suffer the worst **budget shortfall** in a century in FY2021.
 - Costs are **rising fast** due to the need to contain and treat COVID-19, respond to high unemployment levels, and address related human needs.
 - At the same time, tax revenues are **dropping sharply** due to the widespread decline in economic activity and consumer spending.
- ▶ NEA’s calculation that **at least \$175 billion** is needed to **stabilize education funding** is based on projected revenue losses in FY2020 and FY2021, historical revenue losses during the Great Recession, and more.
- ▶ To **reopen schools and campuses safely**, we need to provide PPE for students and educators; modify classrooms, cafeterias, and school buses to permit social distancing; intensify instruction and support for students traumatized by the impact of the coronavirus on their families and communities; retool HVAC systems to address dangerous aerosolization and ensure proper ventilation; and more.
- ▶ The [Economic Policy Institute](#) reports that job losses during the coronavirus crisis already exceed those during the Great Recession of 2008. So far, nearly 470,000 jobs have been lost in local public schools—more than half of all state and local jobs lost. If the economic damage wrought by the coronavirus pandemic goes unchecked, **nearly 2 million educators**—one-fifth of the workforce—could lose their jobs over the next three years, according to a [National Education Association analysis](#).

ALL FRONTLINE WORKERS NEED PPE

- ▶ Anyone whose job requires that they come in contact with the public at this time should be considered a **frontline worker**, including educators and education support professionals (ESPs) who are putting themselves and their families at risk to meet students’ needs.
- ▶ **Four months** have passed since the House passed the HEROES Act—four months of more sickness and death, escalating financial disarray, and rising personal hardship.
- ▶ During this period of inaction by the Senate, schools across the nation have reopened for in-person learning—often under pressure—without the **resources to do so safely**.