American Rescue Plan: How It Helps Education Support Professionals

ON THE JOB
- $170 billion to advance the process of returning safely to in-person instruction—for example, by providing personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitation supplies, and training to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Funds can also cover personnel costs to keep educators on the job, including ESPs. Click to see how much your state gets.
- Intensified support and instruction for students traumatized by the pandemic and the loss of opportunities to learn, including $3 billion to augment services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- $350 billion in state and local aid to help avoid further layoffs of educators, including ESPs, and other essential public servants
- Increased support for mental health programs, including training for paraprofessionals
- Ensure kids don’t go hungry by strengthening the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program and extending the 15 percent increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits through September. In addition, the U.S. Department Agriculture will continue to allow schools and communities to feed students even if schools are not physically open.

YOU & YOUR FAMILY
- One-time $1,400 payment for each person with an annual income below $75,000, including children and college students—for example, $5,600 for a family of four
- Maximum child tax credit made “fully refundable” (so low-income families get the full amount) and increased from $2,000 to $3,000 per year for children ages 6-17 and $3,600 per year for children under age 6—for example, a $3,600 increase or total of $9,600 for a family with children ages five, seven, and nine. Instead of a tax credit, some families can opt to receive monthly payments.
- Supplemental unemployment benefits of $300 per week extended through Sept. 6
- Tax credits extended to encourage employers to keep employees and provide paid sick leave

HEALTH CARE
- More funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for testing, tracking, and vaccinating
- Affordable Care Act premium subsidies increased so people don’t have to pay more than 8.5 percent of their income for coverage
- Federal government will pay 100 percent of COBRA premiums through September to help people who lose their jobs keep their health insurance
- More support for programs serving low-income people, including Medicaid, community health centers, and tribal health programs

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