WORKGROUP ON PANDEMIC SPENDING

March 29, 2022
MARYLAND EDUCATORS ORGANIZATION 

MSEA PANDEMIC RESOURCES

marylandeducators.org/safe-and-healthy-schools/

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

• Virtual instruction tools, best practices for teaching with technology, self-care toolkit.

ADVOCACY RESOURCES

• Health and safety checklist, letters to superintendents, Facebook Live updates, legal information on leave and accommodations.

HEALTH-RELATED RESOURCES

• Links on vaccinations, guidance from Maryland Department of Health, CDC, and other health FAQs.
HEALTH AND SAFETY CHECKLIST

• Checklist Categories

  o Creation of a health and safety team
  o Healthy buildings and classrooms
    o Quality and accessible PPE
    o Space for physical distancing
    o Effective ventilation systems
  o Mitigation strategies
  o Screening protocols
  o Presence of symptoms
  o Response to positive COVID case(s)
  o Health and safety on school buses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health and safety</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration, communication, transparency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prioritize social and emotional needs</td>
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<td>Supports to emphasize academic enhancements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utilize and maximize funds from the Blueprint and ARP</td>
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<td>Community schools, increased tutors, higher salaries</td>
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AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

$3 BILLION

TO SUPPORT SCHOOL YEAR SPENDING

20-21  21-22  22-23  23-24
ARP + BLUEPRINT RESPONSE

• Summer learning/enrichment
  o Extended day
  o Comprehensive afterschool programs
  o Extended school year programs

• Students’ academic, social, and emotional needs

• FUNDS COULD BE USED FOR:
  o Hiring new staff
  o Salaries, bonuses, and benefits for existing or new staff
  o Tutoring and learning recovery programs
  o Unique student needs, including activities under ESSA and IDEA
  o Mental health services and supports
  o Educational technology
  o PPE and response to public health protocols
  o Indoor air quality and facility improvements
SUCCESES DURING THE PANDEMIC

FRONTLINE WORKERS
• School personnel were frontline workers delivering meals and supplies for students and families.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY
• Districts acted quickly to provide devices and develop creative solutions for expanding broadband and hotspots.

ONLINE INSTRUCTION
• While not as effective as in-person, the delivery of online instruction helped mitigate pandemic impacts on learning.
CHALLENGES DURING THE PANDEMIC

NO CLARITY ON COVID LEAVE
• No standard for how leave should be applied to COVID-related quarantining and required time out of school.

SHORTCOMINGS WITH MITIGATION RESPONSE
• Low-quality PPE and failure to abide by physical distancing standards. More must still be done on improved air quality.

LACK OF COLLABORATION AND TRANSPARENCY
• Districts did not work closely with educators to develop learning plans or proposals for how best to spend ARP funds.
MSEA’S ONGOING ADVOCACY

ADDRESS INEQUITIES TO MEET ACADEMIC AND EMOTIONAL NEEDS
• Invest in people to address the staffing shortage, especially mental health personnel, teachers, and ESPs.

COMMUNICATION
• There must be clearer communication at the local level between the school district and parents and educators.

HEALTH PROTOCOLS
• Prioritize health and safety so school buildings are safe for learning and working.
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