



## Day 2 Breakout Session Summary

April 27, 2021

### Maximizing Effective Use of Fiscal Resources

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**Presenters:** Laura Anderson, Jessica Swanson, and Hannah Jarmolowski from the [National Comprehensive Center](#); Yvonne Macrae, [Boston Public Schools](#)

This tabletop discussion explored strategies for effectively using American Rescue Plan funds.

### Session Highlights

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- » Five principles can help guide spending of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds.
  - › Commit to a multi-year spending plan that will avoid adding new recurring costs.
  - › Seek targeted investments to increase learning time for students who need it most.
  - › Consider how equitably funds are applied across schools.
  - › Honor the promise to taxpayers to focus on students and relief.
  - › Be transparent and ensure broad participation in spending decisions.
- » A multi-year spending plan could entail using a larger portion of the funding now to meet immediate needs with a gradual reduction in the percentage of spending in subsequent years. For example, a district could use 40 percent of the funds in the first year with a 10 percent reduction in spending in the following years.
- » Involving principals, school boards, parents, and communities in this planning is key.
- » Keeping per student costs in mind and having procurement protocols in place are also important.

### Shared Resources

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- » [Accelerate Connecticut Summer Program](#)
- » [Education Logic Model Application](#)
- » [Guidance on Maintenance of Effort Requirements and Waiver Requests under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief \(ESSER\) Fund and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief \(GEER\) Fund](#)
- » [Investing in Successful Summer Programs: A Review of Evidence Under the Every Student Succeeds Act](#)
- » [Maximize Student Recovery: Community-Based Afterschool and Summer Programs Accelerate Student Learning](#)
- » [National Education Research Database on Schools](#)



- » [Oregon Summer Learning Best Practice Guide](#)
- » [U.S. Department of Education Fact Sheet on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund](#)
- » [Vermont Summer Matters for All Grant Program](#)

## Questions and Answers on Maximizing Effective Use of Fiscal Resources

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### **How can American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds be used and invested to engage nonprofits and community partners?**

There is broad flexibility in how the funds can be used. Some districts are considering partnerships to deliver tutoring or to provide summer programming and social and emotional learning supports.

There are examples of states using the ARP summer set-aside to support local nonprofits in Connecticut (<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/AccelerateCT/Summer-Enrichment>) and Vermont (<https://www.vermontafterschool.org/summergrant/>).

### **How many years do districts have to spend these one-time funds?**

Districts have through September 2024 to obligate the funds.

### **Does ARP have the same requirements for evidence-based practices as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)?**

ARP defines evidence-based consistent with ESSA but leaves room for innovation. The Department's COVID-19 Handbook Volume 2 provides additional guidance.

<https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-2.pdf>

District specialists and state education agencies could possibly help curate evidence-based practices for districts.

### **In terms of the multi-year spending plan, is the goal to not spend money after Year 4 or to help accelerate student learning and continue those programs that work well?**

If a state or local district cannot sustain the investments, the tapered down approach to spending will help prevent constituents from feeling an abrupt cliff. The context matters, however. The idea is to have a plan that is intentional and that will allow states and districts to spend the funds in the best way for their students.

### **How does the ARP money impact ESSA Maintenance of effort and Special Education Maintenance of equity requirements for local districts?**

The Department of Education fact sheet on ARP ESSER discusses the Maintenance of effort and Maintenance of equity requirements: [https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL\\_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf)

### **How do you recommend engaging school boards in helping them to navigate the use of ARP funds to maximize the benefit to students?**

In Boston, the local school board was involved from the beginning, and some board members will be involved in a new commission on how to use the funds. Involvement early on is key.

