ASBO’S FEDERAL FUNDING FORECAST: COVID-19 UPDATE

Noelle Ellerson Ng
ASBO International/AASA
Alexandria, VA

Elleka Yost
ASBO International
Ashburn, VA

https://asbointl.org/
Learning Objectives

Learn about key federal legislation, policy, guidance, and issues concerning COVID-19 and their potential impact on schools.

Understand how COVID-19 emergency funding aligns with the typical federal budget and appropriations cycle and learn when federal funding will become available to schools.

Identify resources to support continued learning about education funding, policy, and advocacy on COVID-19 and other issues impacting your district.
Overview

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Recap
• What’s happened so far? Where are we now?

U.S. Federal Response
• How has the federal government already responded to COVID-19?
• What additional measures is the federal government discussing now?
• How will these legislative and regulatory actions impact schools?

Resources
• Learn how to stay informed and advocate for your schools

Q&A / Discussion
COVID-19: How Did We Get Here?

12/1 through 1/11: First case and death reported in Wuhan, China.

1/12 through 1/31: Cases spread across Asia ahead of/during the Lunar New Year.
  • U.S. & South Korea confirms first cases on 1/20. World Health Organization (WHO) declares COVID-19 an international public health emergency.

2/1 through 2/5: Virus spreads across Asia and Europe. U.S total = 12 cases by 2/5.
  • Diamond Princess Cruise Ship reports 10 confirmed cases onboard. Cases exponentially grow through 2/19.

2/21 through 2/29: Italy confirms first few cases and infection count surges to 655 within a week.
  • U.S. confirms first unknown case of “community spread,” and reports first death on 2/29 in WA state. Total = 62 cases.
  • WHO raises global COVID-19 outbreak risk to “Very High.”


  • Congress passes “phase two” emergency bill on 3/13. U.S. total = 1,700+ cases (40 deaths) by 3/14.

3/15 through 3/25: Wuhan, China reports no new cases (hits peak) as virus makes its way across Africa.
  • U.S total climbs to 15,268 cases (201 deaths) by 3/21, ranks top 3 for most cases. Congress begins “phase three” bill.
  • Countries begin announcing widespread closure of businesses, schools, etc. and cancelling/postponing large events.

As of March 25, 2020, 4:33 p.m.
There were 460,250 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across 172 countries/regions (20,857 fatalities and 113,691 recovered).

Top 10 Countries by Confirmed Cases

1. China - 81K
2. Italy - 74K
4. Spain - 47K
5. Germany - 37K
6. Iran - 27K
7. France - 25K
8. Switzerland - 10K
9. South Korea - 9K
10. U.K. - 8K

Source: Johns Hopkins University
https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6
As of March 25, 2020, 5:50 p.m.

- COVID-19 has forced widespread closures in varying degrees to all U.S. states and territories in an unprecedented disruption of K-12 schooling.

- School closures have impacted at least 124,000 U.S. public and private school, affecting at least 54.5 million school students.

Poll #1: Choose One
COVID-19: Takeaways

Goal: Prevent COVID-19 from spreading too quickly so we do not overload our public health system. “Flatten the curve.”

Remember: Even young and healthy people at risk. Social activities increases the risk for others. Social distancing slows the spread.

UK Medical Study 3/16/20

- COVID-19 suppression requires a **combination** of social distancing entire population, home isolation of cases, and household quarantine of family members, supplemented by school closures.
- Will need to be maintained until **vaccine becomes widely available** (potentially +18 mos.), given that transmission will quickly rebound if interventions are relaxed.

COVID-19: Takeaways

Trump Administration Guidance: 15 Days to Slow the Spread

School operations can accelerate the spread of COVID-19.

- Governors of states w/ evidence of community spread should close schools in affected and surrounding areas.
- Governors should close schools in communities near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states.
- State and local officials should close schools where COVID-19 has been identified in the population associated with the school.
- States and localities that close schools need to address childcare and the nutritional needs of children.
- In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor/outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

Source: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/03.16.20_coronavirus-guidance_8.5x11_315PM.pdf
Poll #2: Check All That Apply
U.S. Federal Response

U.S. Congress

• **Phase One:** HR 6074, Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act
• **Phase Two:** HR 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act
• **Phase Three:** S 3548 CARES Act *(passed Senate, to House)*
• **Phase Four:** TBD

Federal Agencies

• **Agency guidance, waivers, and flexibilities**
  • **TIP!** Read ASBO International’s COVID-19 Blog on the Global School Business Network to find relevant federal guidance and resources.
  • **Check regularly for updates:** [https://asbointl.org/Network](https://asbointl.org/Network)
U.S. Federal Response: Congress

Phase 1: HR 6074, Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act

Status: Passed into law 3/6/20

- $8.3B emergency package
  - 3x request from White House.
  - Includes $2.2B to help federal, state, and local health agencies prepare for and respond to COVID-19.
Phase 2: HR 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Passed into law 3/18)

**Nutrition Provisions**

- **$500 million** for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) to provide nutrition assistance for children and their mothers who have lost their jobs as a result of the outbreak.
- **$400 million** for The Emergency Food Assistance Program to help local food banks meet increased need for low-income Americans.
- **$100 million** for nutrition assistance for Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories.
- A provision that allows the Department of Agriculture to approve state plans to provide emergency Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) food assistance to households with children who would otherwise receive free or reduced-price school meals in the event that their school is closed (The MEAL Act).
- **Gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority** to approve state waivers addressing nutrition assistance with school closures even if it increases cost to the federal government.
- **Provisions to allow** child and adult care centers to serve food to go, allow the Secretary of Agriculture to waive meal pattern requirements in child nutrition programs if there is a disruption in food supply, and allow the Secretary of Agriculture to issue nationwide school meal waivers during the emergency.
- **Allows** participants to be certified for WIC without being physically present at a WIC clinic.
- **Suspends** work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) during the emergency.
- **Allows** states to request waivers for emergency CR-SNAP benefits to existing SNAP households up to the maximum monthly allotment.
Phase 2: HR 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Continued)

- **Health Provisions**
  - **Provides free COVID-19 testing** to all Americans, regardless of insurance.
  - **Medicaid and CHIP**, which cover over 45 million children between the two programs, will cover diagnostic testing, including the cost of a provider visit to receive testing, with no cost to the patient.
  - **Increases** states' federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for public health programs like Medicaid and CHIP for the duration of the emergency.
  - **Increases** Medicaid allotments for U.S. Territories.
  - **The bill ensures** that American Indians and Alaskan Natives do not experience cost sharing for COVID-19 testing.
Phase 2: HR 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Continued)

- **Paid Sick Leave, Unemployment Insurance, and Family and Medical Leave Provisions**
  - **Provides** employees of employers with under 500 employees the right to two weeks of fully-paid leave when they are sick, or two weeks of paid leave at 2/3 of their normal rate to care for a family member.
  - **Provides** employees of employers with under 500 employees the right to take up to 12-weeks of job-protected leave.
  - **Provides** $1 billion in 2020 emergency grants to states to meet the increased need for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.
  - **Provides** several tax breaks for employers who give their employees mandatory paid leave during the emergency.
Phase 3: CARES Act (S. 3548)

- **Status:** Passed early this morning (3/26) **unanimously**
  - $15.5 billion for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program;
  - $8.8 billion for Child Nutrition Programs to ensure students receive meals when school is not in session;
  - $3.5 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grants, which provide child-care subsidies to low-income families and can be used to augment state and local systems;
  - $750 million for Head Start early-education programs;
  - $100 million in Project SERV grants to help clean and disinfect schools, and provide support for mental health services and distance learning;
  - $69 million for schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education; and
  - $5 million for health departments to provide guidance on cleaning and disinfecting schools and day-care facilities.
- **The $13.5 billion in stabilization fund** money could be used to provide K-12 students internet connectivity and internet-connected devices, and a separate item in the bill for rural development provides $25 million to support "distance learning."

Phase 4: **TBD**
U.S. Federal Response: Agencies

**CDC:** Interim guidance for schools

**USDA:** Waivers for schools to serve food in non-congregate settings (i.e., other than cafeterias)

**ED:**
- FERPA/Student Privacy
- IDEA/Serving Students w/ Disabilities during COVID-19
- COVID-19 Impact on Accountability & Assessments

**FCC:**
- E-Rate flexibilities and waivers on program rules
- Allow beneficiaries to utilize funding to provide home wireless service to existing school devices and hotspots for students who lack internet access at home
Poll #3: Check All That Apply
How Can SBOs Advocate?

Contact your local, state, and federal elected officials. Let them know what’s going on in your community and how they can help you!

- Look up your representatives: https://www.usa.gov/electedOfficials
- Need help? Contact us!

Remember: Capitol Hill is also operating in a COVID-19 environment!

- Digital communications are ideal.
- Advocacy may shift from in-person meetings to teleconferences.
- Be patient and understanding.
ASBO International Resources

- **Global School Business Network** [https://asbointl.org/Network](https://asbointl.org/Network)
  - ASBOIntl Blog “Coronavirus Update: What Should SBOs Know?”
  - All Members Community – You’re not alone, rely on your network of peers for support!
  - Legislative Affairs Community – Policy alerts, blogs, and resources

- **Webinars**
  - SBO Live Panel Discussion on COVID-19 Now Available
  - Recorded Webinars in ASBO International’s Webinar Archive Library

- **Social Media & Publications**
  - Follow ASBO International on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter ([@ASBOIntl](https://twitter.com/ASBOIntl) / [@ASBOUSA](https://twitter.com/ASBOUSA))
  - School Business Daily news briefings, Accents email newsletter, & ASBO website (Join/Renew to ensure you’re getting our publications at [https://asbointl.org/Join](https://asbointl.org/Join))

- **ASBO International Staff**
Resources

Other Resources

• AASA
  • Twitter: @AASAhq @Noellerson

• Department of Education (ED)
  • COVID-19 Website: https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus

• Education Week
  • https://www.edweek.org/

• POLITICO Morning Education Newsletter
  • https://www.politico.com/morningeducation/
Poll #4: True or False
Poll #5: Check All That Apply
Thank you!

Questions?

Contact us!
Noelle Ellerson Ng, nellerson@aasa.org
Elleka Yost, eyost@aspointl.org
As part of their commitment to innovative technologies, RICOH USA, INC proudly sponsors ASBO International's e-Learning, including webinars.