



EXPLAINER

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Delivering for Our Communities: Education Implementation

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Delivering for Our Communities is a series of issue briefs that describe the major federal funding opportunities available due to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This document examines funding opportunities applicable to **education infrastructure** (primarily busing) and describes the types of projects that may be funded with the federal grants. Community advocates can dive deeper into these opportunities to develop proposals and pressure policymakers to advance equity and improve educational outcomes. For further information about broadband-specific opportunities, check out the *Broadband* installment of this series.

IIJA Programs on Education Infrastructure

Clean School Bus Program – \$5 billion allotted

The Clean School Bus program funds the replacement of existing school buses with zero-emission and alternative-fuel school buses. These grants will prioritize rural and low-income communities. Contractors and nonprofits are eligible for this funding, as are state, local, and Tribal governments.

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants – \$2.5 billion allotted

These grants may be used to install electric vehicle charging stations across the country. Half of the funding is set aside for community grants to fund charging stations at schools and other public facilities. These stations can support the transition to electric school buses and other electric vehicles. Grants will prioritize rural areas, low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, and communities with low ratios of private parking or high ratios of multi-unit dwellings. State, local, and Tribal governments and agencies are eligible for these grants.

Public School Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Grants – \$500 million allotted

These grants provide funding for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities. Funding can support projects that result in energy cost reductions, energy savings, and health improvements (including indoor air quality). Grants will prioritize schools serving low-income communities. Eligibility is limited to local education agencies in partnership with a school, nonprofit, for-profit, or community organization.

Summary of Programs on Education Infrastructure

Program Name	Disbursing Agency	Grant Type ¹	Amount of Funding	Key Stakeholder	Timeline
Clean School Bus Program	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Competitive	\$5 billion	EPA Administrator	Request for applications will be announced in late 2022.
Charging and Fueling Infrastructure	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Competitive	\$2.5 billion	FHWA Administrator	Guidelines for applications will be released by May 13, 2022.
Public School Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	Building Technologies Office (BTO)	Competitive	\$500 million	BTO Administrator	Public comment period is open through May 18, 2022. Application period will begin in Fall 2022.

Funded ARPA Programs on Education Infrastructure

The funding for most ARPA programs has already been appropriated and disbursed to state, local, and Tribal governments. These sub-national governments have until December 2022 to decide what to do with the funds—and the money must be completely spent by December 2026. However, many states and municipalities have either allocated their funding toward general revenue—instead of particular child care projects or programs, as the money was intended—or have not yet made a final decision on how to use all of the funding. **Check with your state/local government to ensure that funds are being used, and that the use supports equity in your community rather than special interests.** You can look up how [state](#), [city](#), [county](#), and [Tribal](#) governments have used ARPA funding so far.

[Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund \(ESSER\)](#) – \$122.75 billion allotted

- Implement public health protocols to safely reopen schools
- Address learning loss
- Develop summer school and afterschool programs

¹ For details about different types of grants, check out [PCAF's explainer on federal implementation processes](#).

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund – \$39.6 billion allotted

- Provide emergency financial aid to students to help with college costs and basic needs
- Defray lost revenue and increased costs

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Funding – \$3 billion allotted

- Transition Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to virtual schooling
- Provide resources to support the learning of students with disabilities

Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) – \$2.75 billion allotted

- Available only for non-public schools that have a significant percentage of low-income students
- Funds the same goods and services as the ESSER, above

Head Start Funding – \$1 billion allotted

- Ensures Head Start has the resources it needs to continue providing services

Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)-funded School Education Stabilization Fund – \$850 million allotted

- Supports BIE-funded schools/dormitories, Tribal colleges/universities, and programs that support Tribal Education Agencies

Support for Students Experiencing Homelessness – \$800 million allotted

- Facilitates finding and re-enrolling children and youth experiencing homelessness
- Provides wraparound services for students experiencing homelessness

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