



# **FEDERAL POLICY & COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS: COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING & RECENT LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES**

PRESENTED BY

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# AGENDA

## Overview

## Congressional Activities

- COVID-19 Relief Funds and Recommended Uses
- Innovation and Competition Act and STEM Pathways

## Biden Administration

- Support for College in High School Programs
- Potential Focus Areas

## Q&A

# COVID-19 Relief Funding



## QUICK REVIEW

# WHAT ROLE DO COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS PLAY IN COVID-19 RECOVERY?

**Addressing Declining Postsecondary Enrollments** – Research strongly indicates students are more likely to access college as a result of taking dual enrollment.

**Accelerating Student Learning** – Many students who will need to accelerate their learning due to the pandemic may respond better to the college learning environment.

**Boosting Postsecondary Success** – COVID-19 has highlighted, again, the importance of students securing postsecondary degrees and credentials.





## QUICK REVIEW

# FEDERAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

Since 2020, Congress has passed a series of stimulus packages.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) authorized the Education Stabilization Fund to support states, schools, and colleges in response to COVID-19.

This fund received additional funding under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan (ARP).



## COMMENTS ON DUAL ENROLLMENT

- **USED COVID-19 Handbook Volume 2: Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs**
- States and school districts should consider “[s]upport[ing] dual enrollment and early college high schools, which studies show increase postsecondary preparation and enrollment. These programs can serve as effective mechanisms at exposing high school students to college course-taking, providing a college reengagement strategy for students who are at risk of not continuing to postsecondary education upon high school graduation.”



## USING FUNDS

**Governors:** Governors may use any remaining funding from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) to support college in high school programs.

**State Education Agencies (SEAs):** SEAs may use state set-aside funding included in the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) to support college in high school programs, including funds reserved to address learning loss.

**School Districts:** School districts may also use ESSER funding to support college in high school programs, including funds reserved by districts to address learning loss.

**Colleges & Universities:** Institutions of higher education (IHEs) may use institutional funding received through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to support student access to and success in college in high school programs. IHEs may also choose to provide emergency student financial aid to students participating in the IHE's college in high school program.



## COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING

# RECOMMENDED USES OF FUNDS

- CHSA released guidance for states, school districts, and institutions of higher education on how to use federal stimulus dollars to expand student access and success in college in high school programs.



# UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

A State Policy Roadmap for Equity &  
Quality in College in High School Programs

6 ► **NAVIGATIONAL SUPPORTS**

1 ► **EQUITY GOAL &  
PUBLIC REPORTING**

5 ► **INSTRUCTOR  
CAPACITY**

2 ► **PROGRAM  
INTEGRITY &  
CREDIT TRANSFER**

4 ► **COURSE ACCESS &  
AVAILABILITY**

3 ► **FINANCE**



COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING

## **RECOMMENDED USES OF FUNDS**

Understand existing equity gaps

Undertake statewide planning to establish greater connectivity across K-12 and higher education

Develop best practices for online dual enrollment

Facilitate greater credit transfer

A background image of yellow school lockers with silver handles. The lockers are arranged in a row, and the handles are visible on the right side of the image. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING

## **RECOMMENDED USES OF FUNDS**

Eliminate costs for students

Support student access to courses through targeted recruiting

Expand the pool of credentialed instructors

Provide support services offered to students to ensure their success in college coursework

## FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

**Everything Must Be Spent Down by 2024** – This is not a sustainable funding strategy for supporting long-term student costs. But targeted funding support now for COVID-impacted students is timely.

**Use This Opportunity to Build Long-Term Success** – Rather than enhancing existing funding mechanisms, consider using funding to address long-term structural issues in policy.







**RECENT ACTIVITY**



## INNOVATION AND COMPETITION ACT

- The Senate recently passed a bipartisan bill designed to give the US an advantage in its economic competition with China.
- The primary focus of the bill is to boost US science and tech innovation.
- The package included several new education programs, including a proposal to create state grants to support states in expanding STEM pathways through dual enrollment.
- If passed into law the bill would provide the first specific funding to states to support expanding college in high school programs.



# INNOVATION AND COMPETITION ACT

- 5 year grants to states – award sizes dependent on funding. Prioritizes equity of access and focusing on expanding access for students in high needs high schools.
- Funding must be used to align high school graduation requirements with postsecondary entry requirements, establish a statewide articulation agreement for credit, and develop in-demand pathways. **They must also commit to the courses being no cost to students.**
- Funding must also be used to cover costs for students, transportation, using data, providing student support services.
- Funding can be used for teacher recruitment and credentialing.



WHAT'S NEXT?

## STATE GRANTS FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT

- There are a number of legislative proposals in the mix.
- Uncertain path forward.
- Maybe the Innovation bill becomes law or something moves as part of any reconciliation package Democrats try to do combining the American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan.





## RECENT ACTIVITY

### **BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

- On the campaign trail, Biden demonstrated support for creating seamless pathways between high school, job training, community college, and four-year programs to help students get credentials faster.
- This included support for early college models and dual enrollment programs.
- President Biden's recent budget request – Title I Equity Grants to expand access to advanced coursework.



## RECENT ACTIVITY

### U.S. EDUCATION SECRETARY CARDONA

Emphasized the importance of dual enrollment coursework during his confirmation hearing.

When asked about how to help more students get on track towards postsecondary access and success, Cardona said "clear pathways that start earlier, to give our pre-K-12 system students an opportunity to see what opportunities may exist, whether it's CTE or college-track courses. ***Maybe having more courses at the high school level where students can be dual enrolled and really feel like they're a college student.***"



## RECENT ACTIVITY

### U.S. EDUCATION SECRETARY CARDONA

Cardona also said "You know, my son has recently enrolled in a course through his high school with a community college and that was a pretty proud moment as a father to know that he's taking a college course as a junior and that he's having a head start. That shouldn't be the exception. ***There should be opportunities for all students to do those type of things, and I think with careful coordination it is something we should be doing much more across our country.***"





# DUAL ENROLLMENT PELL EXPERIMENT

- The experiment is still ongoing for participating institutions. We are unclear when it will wind down.
- There is no formal USED funded evaluation of the experiment that we know of.
- Questions remain regarding impact on students, complexity, etc.



# SUPPORT DUAL ENROLLMENT TEACHER CREDENTIALING

- Biden's American Families Plan includes a proposal to provide \$9 billion to train, equip, and diversify the American teacher workforce.
- Focuses on addressing teacher shortages, improving training and supports for teachers, and boosting teacher diversity.



# SUPPORT DUAL ENROLLMENT TEACHER CREDENTIALING

- The CHSA has urged Congress and USED to include funding for dual enrollment teacher credentialing in any additional funding for teacher recruitment and credentialing.
- If included in an infrastructure package, we are hopeful that support for dual enrollment teacher credentialing will be addressed.



# Expand National Data Collection and Reporting

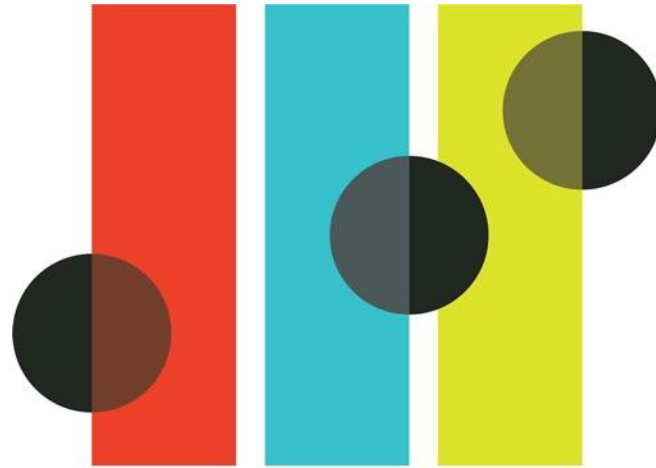


- A recent run of new reports out of Institute of Education Sciences, etc. are welcome, but they are still scattershot.
- USED should put additional effort into supporting improving collection of data under the Civil Rights Data Collection biannual surveys.
- USED should focus on developing a national dataset for dual enrollment access that allows us to track national participation, and participation by subgroups in these programs to understand our progress towards equity of access.



**Q&A**





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