

high rates of poverty, leading to worsening inequality. Black and Latinx people are [three times as likely](#) as white people to contract the virus. The death rate for Black people is [2.5 times](#) as high as for white people. At the same time, Black, Latinx, and Asian households are [facing greater threats](#) to income, housing, nutrition, and health care than white households.

During this unprecedented crisis, states and school districts are preparing for the new school year to start without any additional resources from the federal government since the passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act in March. As they have developed these plans, the full cost of reopening schools has become clearer. The Association of School Business Officials International and AASA, the School Superintendents Association, have [estimated](#) that it will cost an additional \$490 per student, or \$1.8 million for an average-size school district, to comply with the reopening guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including physical distancing requirements, cleaning, and personal protective equipment including face masks for staff and students. According to the American Federation of Teachers, it could cost at least [\\$116.5 billion nationally](#) to reopen schools safely and to provide the necessary additional supports to students, families, and educators. Similarly, the Council of Chief State School Officers has [estimated](#) that meeting the full scope of needs for next school year would require an additional \$158.1 billion to \$244.6 billion.

In light of these new estimates of the additional costs for reopening schools safely and supporting students for the next school year through either in-person or remote learning, as well as the ongoing economic crisis that is leading to significant reductions in state and local revenues, we strongly urge Congress to immediately pass a new COVID-19 relief bill with at least \$250 billion in funding for education.

As originally stated in our May 5 letter, to reduce the impact of the recession on schools, higher education institutions, and students, and to support the increasing needs of students in the short- and long-term, we ask Congress to consider the following:

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At least \$25 billion to be allocated to Title I, IDEA, and other ESSA programs serving students of color, students from families with low incomes, English learners, students with disabilities, and other vulnerable students to provide targeted support to those students most likely to be affected by prolonged school closures.

At least \$175 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund distributed directly to LEAs, with minimal state set-asides in an equitable and targeted fashion.

At least \$50 billion in funding for higher education to public institutions of higher education and minority-serving institutions. The funds for public institutions should flow through states with a formula that emphasizes enrollments of low-income individuals and encourages greater support for institutions that derive larger shares of their operating budgets from state and local sources.

At least \$50 billion to fund the Child Care is Essential Act which would provide funding to child care providers to stabilize the child care sector and support providers to safely reopen and operate. There is an acute need for this as businesses as well as some public schools and colleges begin to re-open and returning workers need child care. Unfortunately, many providers across the country remain shut down or are operating with significantly reduced capacity. The Child Care Stabilization Fund within the existing Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program

Increasing the minimum monthly benefit from \$16 to \$30;
Suspending administrative actions that would eliminate or weaken SNAP benefits or participation, including the Trump Administration's changes to categorical eligibility;
Extending the P-EBT program through the summer months and into the next academic year to allow households with children receiving free or reduced-price school meals to access meals;
Expand the program to cover children under five years old;
Ensuring no more laws are needed to extend the program should closures or distance learning continue; and
Strengthening the P-EBT program by directing USDA to work more

Educators for Excellence
Feminist Majority Foundation
Great MN Schools
InnovateEDU
Institute for Educational Leadership
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
LULAC-IL
LULAC Illinois Council 5238
Monmouth-Roseville CUSD #238
NAACP
National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE)
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Center for Learning Disabilities
National Disability Rights Network
National Education Association
National Superintendents Roundtable
National Urban League
Next100
NextGen California
New America, Education Policy Program
New Leaders
The Partnership for College Completion
PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)
PHENOM (Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts)
POWER-PAC IL (Parents Organized to Win, Educate and Renew - Policy Action Council)
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Teach For America
TNTF
UnidosUS
Young Invincibles