

CONTACT: Amy Kobeta, PCCY
amyk@pccy.org, 347-607-1058 mobile

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT CHECKLISTS WILL HELP
FAMILIES, SCHOOLS & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ACCESS CRITICAL FEDERAL FUNDS**

PHILADELPHIA (April 21, 2021)— The American Rescue Plan Act (Rescue Act) has all the potential to be a game changer for children and families but only if people access its full benefits. **PCCY developed comprehensive checklists to share widely as a resource for families, school districts, and counties and municipalities.** The checklists are available for download at <https://www.pccy.org/resource/the-american-rescue-act-plan-resources/>.

Helping Families

There are thousands of dollars of resources available to families: a tax credit of at least \$3,000 per child, food and health insurance benefits, and child care assistance and reimbursement, to name a few. But if families don't know that help is there for them, they don't know to access it.

Improving Schools

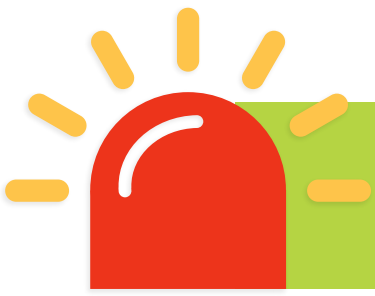
The Rescue Act delivers \$1.95 billion total schools in Philadelphia, Chester, Montgomery, Delaware, and Bucks counties to help students catch up after months of remote learning. Schools now have the money to offer summer learning and enrichment programs, hire temporary teachers, staff, and social workers, purchase technology, and make building repairs, giving our schools the "shot in the arm" they need to recover from pandemic setbacks.

Repairing Communities

The five southeastern Pennsylvania counties will receive \$802 million, with an additional \$1.5 billion going directly to local municipalities. That's a lot of money that can be used to best meet the unique needs of local communities. There are tremendous opportunities to help child-serving organizations, boost the appallingly low pay of child care teachers, reduce lead poisoning, and help parents find jobs.

PCCY is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works to improve the lives of children in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties by developing initiatives and advocating for quality health care, child care, public education, and family stability. Learn more on our website (www.pccy.org), Twitter (@pccyteam), and Facebook page (PCCYPage).

(three multi-page documents attached)



ATTENTION!

THE AMERICAN RESCUE ACT

COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES RECEIVED BILLIONS THAT CAN HELP CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM BUILD BACK BETTER



Pennsylvania's counties and municipalities received \$6.15 billion in funds to help communities and families rebound from the pandemic; these funds must be spent by the end of 2024. These funds are on top of funds received by local governments. To find out how much your county and municipal governments received, [click here](#).

These funds can be used to:

1. Help families, businesses, and non-profits get back on their feet and help entire sectors rebuild their customer base and workforce.
2. Make grants to businesses or non-profits for the purpose of increasing the pay of essential workers up to \$13 per hour (in addition to wages already received), with a ceiling of \$25,000 per individual.
3. Avoid future cuts in government services to the extent that the cuts are a result of a reduction in local revenue due to the pandemic.
4. Invest in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Additional funds are also available to pay for vaccine distribution and COVID testing, and for county-run behavioral health services, nursing homes, local offices of aging, county-managed eviction protection programs, and homeless services.

To help families, businesses, and non-profits get back on their feet, counties and municipalities should think about the needs of children by doing at least the following to help families:

1. Assess and close resource gaps for child-serving organizations so parents can return to work with confidence their children are safe and nurtured.
2. Boost the pay of low-wage workers who cared for children during the pandemic.
3. Invest in summer and afterschool programs so parents can go to work and children are safe and nurtured.
4. Help parents find jobs.
5. Close the digital divide by connecting and supporting families to maintain reliable and adequate Internet services to tap health care, employment, and social supports.
6. Improve housing and water services in ways that reduce the risk of childhood lead poisoning.



Specifically, PCCY recommends the following steps for county and municipal managers:

1. Assess and address needs of child-serving organizations

Reach out to all child-serving organizations including school districts, child care providers, pre-K and Head Start programs, foster care and juvenile justice, early intervention, behavioral health and youth services entities to assess their needs with respect to:

- a. Close resource gaps for in-person services to children – Make sure all child-serving organizations and programs are ready to provide in-person services to children this summer and all next school year, in accordance with COVID safe practices, and use Rescue Act funds to address any resource shortages that would preclude children from engaging in in-person programs or services.
- b. Prepare/train staff to understand and address the impact of the pandemic on the social and emotional impact on children – Identify special training needs for staff, including training to address the critical social-emotional learning needs of children as a result of the pandemic.
- c. Make sure children are safe – Spend funds to intensify home visits for children in foster care, or families who are struggling because their children were not consistent in their school or childcare attendance. Every effort must be made to make sure children were and are not suffering from abuse or neglect during the shutdown and that families are connected with needed social services and supports.
- d. Leave no vacancy unfilled – Many youth-serving organizations, including schools and child care centers, may need extra help finding workers to staff up for the summer and the fall. Where agencies are facing labor shortages, Rescue Act funds can be used to organize special job fairs or common marketing efforts to recruit unemployed and skilled local parents for jobs available in these two critical sectors.
- e. Make an extra effort to check in on families with limited English skills – The Rescue Plan and the two previous relief bills include substantial resources to help small businesses and families recover from the pandemic. Rescue Plan funds can be used to hire special outreach staff to ensure immigrant-owned businesses and immigrant families can learn about these resources in their native languages. Funds can also be used to translate county information specifically around health care services, social supports, and grants or resources to help families rebound.

2. Boost the pay of low-wage workers who cared for children during the pandemic

Parents relied on child care programs throughout the pandemic to care for children while they worked. These workers are among some of the lowest paid in the labor force, often working for wages less than are paid at “big-box stores.” Where child care staff went to work daily and put their lives on the line to care for children, they should be rewarded for that sacrifice with the local Rescue Act funds available specifically to pay essential workers. To the extent that other child-serving organizations were also open and meeting the needs of families during the pandemic, the lower paid workers should be prioritized for the special essential worker payments.



3. Reconnect every child this summer

To help parents return to work and help children develop good routines, fund summer camps and other enrichment programs so that the maximum number of children are engaged in positive, in-person socialization activities. It's especially important to recruit children who did not attend virtual or hybrid instruction regularly so they can be readied for school in September. Further, to the extent that townships or youth organizations do not have enough funding for after school programs during the next school year, Rescue Act funds can be used to fill those gaps.

4. Help parents find jobs

Thousands of parents lost their jobs during the pandemic and still others may not have been able to find work even before the pandemic. Counties must create real connections between their County Workforce Board and municipalities with the goal of finding every parent who can work and helping them reconnect to employment. Rescue Act funds can be used to support municipal re-employment workshops or job fairs at the municipal level or across nearby municipalities so that parents can easily engage with re-employment services. Employment/re-employment efforts must recognize that many parents are still caring for children at home so the hours and locations of outreach events must be scheduled in ways that optimize participation by parents.

5. Close the digital divide for all families

The Rescue Act is THE chance to Build Back Better and a part of doing so means improving technology that can support learning and connection to social supports for children. Counties and local governments can use these funds to make sure every family has Internet service, sufficient speed and bandwidth to connect to telemedicine and social services, and modern computers or devices.

Counties must work together with their municipalities to create a common plan for capturing data for every household with respect to ISP access and speed. To the extent that there is a gap in access, reasonable speeds, or regular interruptions in bandwidth, counties should meet with ISP providers to solve the access issues with ISP provider resources first.

Funds from the Rescue Act can be used to provide technical support for families who are not tech savvy and have yet to use the Internet for education, telemedicine, or accessing social supports. PCCY suggests a three-step process:

1. Counties and municipalities spend Rescue Act funds on a low-cost method of finding these families in partnership with local ISP providers.
2. Contract with a local or regional organization to help families tap federal funds for reduced price ISP access and administer a system to give out low-cost or free computers that can support online access to services and supports. These entities must also train families to use the computer for telemedicine and other services and operate a "help desk" so families can build their capacity over time to use the Internet for problem solving, service access, and learning.
3. To reach the most "disconnected" families, Rescue Act funds must enable all services to be available to families in their native language.



6. Get ahead in preventing lead poisoning

Counties and municipalities can use Rescue Act funds to reduce the risk of childhood lead poisoning in two ways:

- a. Housing assistance funds – Where counties release funds for eviction protection, they can couple those funds with requirements that landlords comply with their housing codes and ensure no chipping paint and ideally ensure every rental unit is lead-safe. Where landlords cannot afford to make a unit lead-safe, counties can work with their community action agency or local housing office to increase funds available for lead remediation.
- b. Water improvements – Child care centers in Pennsylvania are required to ensure that there are no trace elements of lead in the water coming out of their spigots. When considering what water upgrades are needed, complete a survey of the water quality in every child care center and, where trace elements of lead are found, replace the water service line with these funds.

All Rescue Act funds must be accounted for separately so that citizens and federal agencies can see and audit the expenditures and ensure that none of the expenses are used to pay for pension costs of existing public services unless local revenues declined due to the pandemic putting those services at risk. PCCY urges counties and municipalities to hold at least one public meeting to gather input on how these funds can best be used, and at least one public meeting to share with citizens once it is decided how these funds will be specifically deployed.

As of the beginning of April, the federal government was still working out all the details for how Rescue Plan funds can be spent. Meanwhile, counties and local government can get ready to make the wisest use of these funds and help families get back on their feet by engaging children and youth in activities, looking out for their safety, and supporting their return to normal routines.

4/9/21





ATTENTION!

THE AMERICAN RESCUE ACT HAS REAL BENEFITS FOR YOU!

Here's your checklist!

More Income for Your Household



At least **\$3,000 per child** will be sent to families over the year, starting this July. To make sure you get your payment, make sure your child has a social security number and file a 2020 tax return, even if you don't owe any taxes, and you will receive payments automatically. The good news is that this direct federal benefit will not count as income for SNAP, Medicaid, or Child Care benefits on next year's federal tax returns.

\$1,400 per adult and child in your household will be sent to every family with income under \$75,000 for single parent families and \$150,000 for two parent families. To make sure you receive your check, your child must have a social security number and you must file a 2019 or 2020 tax return, even if you don't owe any taxes.

\$3,000 per child

\$1,400 per adult and child

To find a location near you where you can get help filing your tax return for free, visit: **IRS VITA Free Tax Prep** (irs.treasury.gov).

New Unemployment Benefits



\$300 more per week will be added onto what you receive from your state in unemployment compensation through September 6th, 2021 and the Pandemic Unemployment benefits will go through September 6th as well.

Unemployment benefits of up to **\$10,200** received since the pandemic began **will not count as taxable income** for your 2020 federal tax return.

\$300 more per week

For more information and register: PA Unemployment Compensation (paclaims.pa.gov).

\$10,200 Tax Exempt Unemployment Benefits

More info here:

<http://bit.ly/ARPFactSheet>



Reduced Health Care Costs



If you are insured via Obamacare or want to be, your **monthly health care payments** will be **capped at 8.5%** of your income.

Your COVID related **health care costs are waived** if you are insured via Medicaid or your child needs COVID care or a vaccine and they are enrolled in CHIP.

If you were laid off or had your hours cut back due to the pandemic, you might be able to get six months of free health insurance through COBRA. Employees who are or were eligible for their employer's COBRA plan -- whether or not they took it up when they became eligible -- now can enroll without a premium through the end of September of 2021. If you are uninsured, paying for individual insurance yourself, or already covered through your employer's COBRA plan, ask your former employer if you are eligible for a COBRA subsidy. (Your employer's costs will be fully reimbursed.)

8.5% income cap

Find your details here:
Pennie - Connecting Pennsylvanians to Health Coverage (pennie.com).

Coverage for COVID-19 Testing

Vaccinations, and Treatment | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (cbpp.org).

6 months FREE health insurance

call former employer

Decreasing the Cost of Internet Services



\$50 a month off your Internet bills for approximately six months. Comcast and Verizon are both offering this benefit. Families may qualify if you have a child receiving free or reduced priced school meals, or a PELL grant for college or training, or otherwise if you are low income. This benefit is available to families even if they owe their Internet provider for past bills, but the benefit cannot be applied to the debt owed.

\$50 per month

To find out if you qualify for this help: Household Eligibility - Universal Service Administrative Company (usac.org).

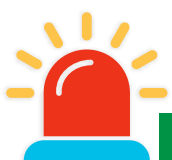
Keeping a Roof Over Your Head



The federal legislation includes real support to help **cover back mortgage and rent payments** for families that cannot afford to make payments due to the pandemic. These funds can also go toward utility bills. Details are still being worked out.

Rent and Mortgage

Watch this space: **PHFA Coronavirus Resources**.



Extra Help Paying for Food



Receive up to **\$6.82 per day** for school day meals if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals and your child's school has been closed for in-person instruction (adjusted where there is hybrid instruction); and for any child under 18, you may also receive help with the cost of summer meals.

Families already receiving SNAP may receive these new benefits on a SNAP EBT card; families with school-aged children not receiving SNAP will have a **P-EBT card** mailed to them for each child.

If you receive nutrition benefits through the Women, Infants & Children Program, Pennsylvania may increase your WIC benefits by **\$35 per month for more fruits and vegetables** through September 30.

\$6.82 per day for meals

Find out more here:
Pandemic EBT Guide
(dhs.pa.gov).

P-EBT card

Find out more here:
Pandemic EBT Guide
(dhs.pa.gov).

\$35 more per month

Register here for WIC: WIC
Online Pre-Application
(pawic.com).



Approximately **\$1,500** might be owed to you if your family qualified for the maximum SNAP benefit since last September.

If you are eligible **you will automatically receive these funds.**



An extra **\$95 a month** will become available in May for families who currently qualify for the maximum amount of SNAP benefits. Your family may also be eligible for more SNAP benefits.

Check here: <http://bit.ly/CLSSNAP> or
<http://bit.ly/SNAPtemp>



Keeping Your Job and Dealing with COVID's Impact on Your Family



If you earn under the income listed in the table below, you are eligible for a subsidy to **cover the cost of child care** and more families can enroll in the subsidy program now. Apply for a subsidy by calling the Early Learning Resource Center in your county.

Child Care Coverage

Find the number for your county here: Early Learning Resource Centers (dhs.pa.gov).

YOU CAN GET SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE IF:

YOUR FAMILY HAS

YOUR FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR THE YEAR IS LESS THAN

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| 2 members (one is a child) | \$34,480 |
| 3 members (one or more children) | \$43,440 |
| 4 members (one or more children) | \$52,400 |
| 5 members (one or more children) | \$61,360 |

You can lower what you owe in federal taxes by declaring your child care expenses for the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. Doing so can **reduce what you owe in federal taxes by as much as \$4,000** if you spent at least twice as much for child care for any child 13 years old or younger; **or \$8,000** if you spent more than \$16,000 for child care for two or more children. And if you owe less in taxes, you will get the rest of the credit paid to you directly.

You can **be paid for any leave** you need to take care of someone in your family affected by COVID or if your child's school or child care program is closed. Your employer will be reimbursed for paying you through September 30.

Reduce Federal Taxes

Find more details here: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>

Paid Leave

Find more details here: COVID-19 and the Family and Medical Leave Act Questions and Answers (dol.gov).



4/9/21



ATTENTION!

HOW TO USE AMERICAN RESCUE ACT FUNDS TO HELP STUDENTS

The American Rescue Act is the third federal package to deliver additional funds to public schools, including charter schools, to address the immediate and lasting effects of the pandemic on students. See frequently asked questions below and how school districts can use these funds to help PA's students.

How Much Money Did Our School District Receive?

You can find out how much your school district received from the two CARES Act packages and American Rescue Act here: <http://www.pccy.org/DistrictFunding>.

In addition, brick and mortar charter schools received \$955 million. And cyber schools received a boon of \$212 million. More details can be found here: <http://www.pccy.org/CharterFunding>.

How Can These Funds Be Used?

The U.S. Congress intended the Rescue Act funds to be spent on the immediate costs associated with educating students during the pandemic and the costs of ensuring students recover any COVID-related lost learning; skill development and/or school readiness so they can succeed in the years ahead. These funds must be spent by September 2024.

Eight principles should guide how school districts, charters, and cyber charters use these funds:

1. Be Transparent and Clear That the Funds Are Temporary
2. Focus on Student Learning and Social-Emotional Skills Needs First
3. Front Load the Spending on Students
4. Address School Building Repairs
5. Solve for Equity Gap
6. Be Ready for the Virus to Continue by Planning for Maximum In-Person Instruction
7. Integrate Technology into All Learning
8. Fill Budget Gaps Caused by Unexpected COVID Expenditures or Reduction in Expected Revenues



1. Engagement and Transparency

Every public school district, charter, and cyber school should be transparent and show the taxpayers in a simple chart how much they received and how they are spending the funds. Districts should be specific about what they are investing in, what parents can expect to see happening with and for children, and how the time-limited nature of the funds is being considered.

The state has very clear requirements that ensure public school districts hold public hearings and release before such hearings their proposed and final budgets for each school year. These hearings are held from March through June. Districts should be making an extra effort to make sure local taxpayers understand their proposed approach to using these funds and asking for input. Ideally, teachers, counselors, principals, and parents are asked for their suggestions for the best use of these funds. Further, everyone in the community has a right to know how the funds will be spent.

What can you do? You can ask your school district to include a special presentation on how the federal funds are expected to be spent and you can make comments about these funds at any school board meeting, in accordance with your school board's public comment policies. Important suggestions for your district include spending a majority of the money on the urgent learning and social-emotional needs of children. To assess those needs, encourage your district to actively gather input from all key stakeholders so they can make well-informed decisions for this critically needed federal relief.

You can evaluate your school district's plan by considering how it aligns with the following principles.

2. Focus on Student Learning and Social-Emotional Skills First

American Rescue Act funds are intended to be spent ON TOP OF WHAT THE DISTRICT EXPECTED TO SPEND to boost student learning and help students redevelop the social skills needed for school success over the next 3.5 years. In addition, the Act recognizes that many students experienced severe hardship during the pandemic including the loss of lives among family members, parental or care-giver job loss, eviction, hunger, and family turmoil. The combination of remote and interrupted in-class learning and the harsh realities of COVID requires schools to consider counseling and additional social-emotional supports so that students can readily restart their in-person learning and for the learning to "stick."

For this to happen, school districts must spend at least 20% of their Rescue Act funds for evidence-based strategies to increase direct instructional and support services to students. Given the urgent needs of students, we urge districts to spend at least 60% of the funds for investments like:

- Summer Learning and Enrichment Programs for Every Student Who Wants It
- Summer and After School Programs for Socialization
- High-Dosage Tutoring for Every Student Who Needs It
- Extra Teachers or Teacher's Aides to Reduce Class Size or Support Students In Class Who Are Struggling
- Accelerated Assessment for Students Who Need IEPs
- Intensive Assistance to Families and Students with Limited English Proficiency
- Providing Social Work Services In School

Because the funds are temporary, districts should design time-limited contracts for all professionals they bring on staff to meet the urgent needs of students.



3. Front Load the Spending on Students

Although the spending can be stretched over 3.5 years, districts should spend at least 50% by the end of the 2021-22 school year. The needs of our students are urgent. These resources make it possible for districts to rapidly help students overcome learning loss and make even more progress. We owe it to our students to deliver on the promise of Build Back Better by doing all we can now with these extraordinary resources to recover lost learning and more so they benefit from the promise of this historic investment in public education.

An essential element of early spending should be support for parents to determine if they think their child is ready to be promoted. Parents need to be able to talk with professionals to help them make the best decision for their child. Every school district should understand that a “COVID social promotion policy” could mean a high rate of student failure in the years ahead.

4. Address School Building Repairs

Far too many school districts could not return to in-person instruction because their schools suffered from decades of under-investment and as a result were in disrepair. These time-limited funds should be deployed immediately to repair facilities and Build Back Better. Not only should ventilation be improved to enable COVID safe instruction, but also where lead, asbestos, and mold problems make it impossible to re-open our schools in a COVID safe manner, funds can be used to remediate these health hazards. These resources can add air conditioning to older schools and repair heating systems that long ago stopped working properly. Where school districts have had the funds needed to keep their schools up to par, these funds can meet planning expansions and renovations and help the community avoid having to pay for these costs in the years ahead.

5. Solve for Equity Gaps

Given the extraordinary toll that the pandemic took on communities of color, school districts can and should use these funds to make real progress closing the racial achievement gap.

First among these uses of funds should be training for all school personnel on the impact of pandemic on children, and especially children of color. Staff should be trained on how to speak to this issue and support students who lost loved ones over the last year and to recognize that the toll was heaviest in Black and Hispanic communities. Likewise, the virus has scared children deeply and those levels of fear are more pronounced among children of color. Children will learn best when they can articulate their fears and build coping skills in their school community to put the pandemic behind them and support each other emotionally.

Specifically, these funds can be spent to ensure students of color are recruited and assessed for their readiness to enroll in Honors and AP courses. To the extent that schools need to expand Honors and AP classes, temporarily, these funds can make that possible. Similarly, where students of color are showing that coursework is too difficult, these funds can be used temporarily to pay for extra help via in-class, afterschool, and summer remediation services. Where schools have disproportionately high rates of



students of color experiencing suspension and expulsion, districts can allocate funds to schools to temporarily add social workers and therapists to put proven extra supports where they are needed to reduce school discipline infractions and improve school climate. Schools can use these funds to get trained on proven strategies for making schools safe like restorative practices and implicit and explicit bias trainings. Further, the funds can be used to tap experts to support the critical conversations with administrators, faculty, parents, and students that identify social and behavioral norms in the district to increase the safety, affiliation, and engagement of students of color in the academic and social life of the school.

Given the widespread anticipated shortages of teachers, districts can also use these funds to improve their new teacher recruitment efforts focused on increasing the diversity of their faculty by using funds to recruit from colleges that are preparing diverse students to become teachers. Districts could also engage these higher education institutions and other experts to provide training to incumbent faculty on instructional methods that compensate for and address implicit bias in order to boost the outcomes of Black and Hispanic students from grades pre-K to 12.

6. Integrate Technology into All Learning

Every teacher and every student got a crash course in using technology to augment the powerful instructional skills of teachers. Part of Build Back Better must be a complete commitment by every school district and principal to continue to creatively add the tools of technology into the way teachers teach with regularity when schools re-open. Districts should immediately engage teachers in creating the frameworks, tools, and expectations for how teachers and students will deploy technology to accelerate and deepen learning.

Furthermore, districts must proactively reach out to parents who have children enrolled in free and reduced-price lunch programs to explain how they can get signed up for a reduction of \$50 a month for Internet services. Families may receive up to six months of this benefit. Families have to sign up for the benefit themselves. Enterprising districts might hold a family sign up day to help low-income families tap this important benefit so that every student can augment their learning with online tools.

7. Be Ready for the Virus to Continue by Planning for Maximum In-Person Instruction

While we all hope and expect that schools will be open for five days of in-person instruction this September, districts should have a backup plan. With these resources, every student can and should still attend school in-person every day. Districts can scan their community to find space that can be rented if their school buildings are not large enough to meet Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) safety guidelines and use Rescue Act funds to pay for needed leases and retrofits. In addition, districts are likely to need to hire extra staff to make daily in person attendance possible, which means they need a Plan B staffing plan in place, and a portion of these Rescue Act funds can cover the costs.



8. Fill Budget Gaps Caused by Unexpected COVID Expenditures or Reduction in Expected Revenues

Some school districts have suffered a reduction in expected revenue for this school year. And, every school district has had to absorb unexpected costs for remote instruction, COVID safety protocols, and, in many cases, skyrocketing cyber and charter tuition payments.

School districts should be explicit about the amount of these costs and how much of these costs can be offset in anticipated revenue growth including funds from rising real estate values, EIT collections, and the first two COVID relief packages. To the greatest extent possible, funds from the Rescue Act should be spent for additive services and costs rather than filling budget holes.

Some school districts will want to preserve some Rescue Act funding to protect their budgets in the case that the economy slows down over the next 3.5 years. We know our students are suffering now, thus school districts should spend the funds now responsibly.

Will These Funds Be Enough for My School to Offer a Quality Education to My Children?

The Pennsylvania Senate Republicans have directed school districts to use the federal funds to meet critical budget gaps caused by the crisis including lower than expected tax collections, unanticipated costs for COVID-safe instruction, and to address the myriad learning needs of students interrupted by the pandemic. They emphasize that these funds are “temporary in nature and will not be included in future recurring federal appropriations...Accordingly school districts should not use one-time federal funding to increase ongoing, baseline spending.”

However, they didn't say that they would support any increases in state funds for districts' unavoidable increases in spending due to state-required payments for public school employee pensions and charter schools. Across the 500 school districts, just these two costs rose by more than \$600 million this year and next year they could increase by another \$500 million. We support the state lawmakers' caution that school districts must use the new funds on time-limited/one-time expenditures. That means the state can and should increase the amount of funding it allocates to school districts to meet the recurring state required expenses.



What Can You Do? Call your state lawmakers and urge them to support the \$1.5 billion increase in recurring funds for schools as proposed by Governor Wolf.

Find more information here: <http://www.pccy.org/gamechangingaction>

