

## **COVID-19 Funding, Waivers, and Resources for Charter Schools from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS)<sup>1</sup>**

### Contents:

[Family First Coronavirus Relief Act \(FFCRA\)](#)

[Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act \(CARES\)](#)

[Funding Provisions](#)

[Legal Waivers \(National Education Emergency Waivers\)](#)

[SBA No- and Low-cost Loans for Paycheck Protection and Economic Recovery](#)

[Conclusion](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Family First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA): Child Nutrition Funds / Employee Leave**

- USDA given authority to grant waivers (until September 30, 2020) for various provisions of Child Nutrition and School Lunch Acts to allow meals to be provided outside of school setting in a safe environment and to waive nutritional content requirements, among other things
- Expansion of Employee sick leave and paid family medical leave (previously reported by Lexis Services)

### **Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES)**

#### **Funding Provisions**

- \$2+ Trillion (total)
- Creates Education Stabilization Fund (\$30.75 Billion)
  - 1% of funds reserved for states with the highest virus populations
  - Remainder of funds split 3-ways:
    - **Governors' Fund** (for discretionary distribution; almost \$3 Billion)  
Allocated to states based on affected populations – gubernatorial discretion to distribute among schools and related care providers
    - **Elementary and Secondary Schools Fund** (\$13.32 Billion)  
Based on schools' prior share of Title I: 90% to school districts (including charter schools); 10% reserved for state discretion. Broad discretion for school use.

---

<sup>1</sup> Most of the material herein is condensed, summarized and excerpted from the NAPCS site; portions regarding recent legislation were made available by the Penn Group on behalf of the NAPCS.

(E.g., funds for any activities under existing federal education laws such as health response; planning and coordination for long-term school closures like meeting online learning and disability needs; staff training on safety and sanitation; purchasing educational technology (to aid regular interaction of teachers with students); mental health services and supports; principals' discretion for operations.)

■ **Higher Education Fund** (almost \$14 B)

- **School Emergency Response to Violence (SERV; \$100 Million)**  
Provides support (e.g., for counseling and referral to mental health services) to LEAs and IHEs in which the learning environment has been disrupted by violence or traumatic crisis
- **General provisions**
  - SEAs and governors must award funds within one year
  - Federally controlled funds available for LEAs/Charter Schools until 9/30/21; Tydings Amendment gives LEAs/Charter Schools one year after that to spend the funds
  - A state must maintain fiscal support for K-12 schools at the average level of the three previous years before the pandemic, subject to waivers for financial inability

**Legal Waivers (National Education Emergency Waivers)**

- By SEA AND LEA request  
(i.e., Charter Schools/LEAs may make direct requests for certain waivers)
- Expedited process
- US DOE may grant SEAs waivers of Title I requirements for assessments, accountability systems, annual report card requirements
- Both SEAs AND LEAs may receive waivers (1) for Title I schoolwide programs poverty threshold, maintenance of effort (MOE), carryover of Title I funding; (2) Title IV-A needs assessment, allocation of funds, and technology purchases; (3) definition of “professional development”
- Any waivers issued must be for all public schools, including charter schools within the SEA or LEA, consistent with state charter law

**SBA No- and Low-cost Loans for Paycheck Protection and Economic Recovery**

According to the NAPCS:

This month's federal relief packages make two low- or no-cost lending programs available through the [Small Business Administration](#) (SBA). Charter schools that have a 501(c)3 status with the IRS and for-profit education management companies with fewer than 500 employees ... can apply for **SBA 7(a) Paycheck Protection Program** or **SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans**.

See the NAPCS website for more details regarding [these loan programs](#).

## **Conclusion**

For more extensive information, see the [NAPCS General COVID-19 Resource page](#). Lexis Services will continue to cull, condense, and share information, from this and other reliable sources, as it becomes available. All matters of legal significance to your school should be addressed to your school attorney; otherwise, feel free to contact us.