

(Attachment 1) Monthly Report, with Possible Action, on Legislative Activities Affecting MPS

Key Provisions of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

On March 6, the United States Senate passed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan under the FY21 Budget Reconciliation process. \$165 billion in education funding has been included in the new recovery package, with \$122.8 billion for K-12 public schools. \$350 billion is included in direct general aid for state and local governments (\$220 billion for states, territories, and tribal governments, and \$130 billion for general purpose local governments, as well as a \$10 billion Critical Infrastructure Program). Seven billion dollars has been provided for the E-Rate program of the FCC. Adjustments are included to the small-business Paycheck Protection Program's funds, and an additional extension of unemployment insurance is included as well. Further investments in COVID public health measures for vaccines, testing, tracing, supplies, therapeutics, logistics, mitigation, research, and personnel are also included.

K-12 Highlights:

- Provides \$122.8 billion for elementary and secondary education (with no equitable services for private schools required) and \$39.6 billion for higher education (includes no Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund [GEER])
- Reserves 20% of each school district's allocation for learning-loss activities
- Provides for additional \$2.75 billion to the states to offer services and assistance to private-school students under the Education Assistance to Nonpublic Schools program (EANS) authorized under the year-end FY21 Consolidated Appropriations bill
- Provides an additional \$2.58 billion for IDEA formula grants, as well as \$200 million for preschool and \$250 million for infant and toddler grants
- Provides \$40 billion for childcare and \$1 billion for Head Start
- Provides \$7 billion for E-Rate funding through the FCC
- Increases and extends the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer program (P-EBT) to provide cash benefits for eligible free- and reduced-priced-lunch students not attending school due to emergency closures and remote services, but does not provide further emergency reimbursements for school meal programs.