



## **Memo to ACSI Schools: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), EANS II Changes, Other Provisions March 11, 2021**

On Thursday, March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law the latest round of COVID relief legislation, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). The key item to note for Christian schools is the law's second round of funding for the Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) program. Both EANS I and now EANS II *each* received \$2.75 billion. EANS II thus represents a doubling of available funds.

ARPA makes one significant change in EANS II: it may not be used for reimbursement like EANS I. Other ARPA language could lead to confusion and ACSI has already joined with other partners in an effort to help the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) put forward helpful guidance.

The hope is that USDE would advise state education agencies (SEAs), through which EANS operates, largely to maintain current processes, with the obvious exception of reimbursements, in the hope of avoiding confusion and slowing down aid to private sector education entities. This will bear watching to avoid a repeat of the confusion in implementation of ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund) due to vague CARES Act text.

**Other Provisions.** ARPA provided additional funding of \$7.25 billion in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) though the deadline remains March 31. Non-profits with up to 500 employees also now qualify. For schools that participate in the E-rate program, ARPA allocates over \$7 billion through September 20, 2023.

ACSI will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Find the text of ARPA [here](#).

This March 10, 2021, Thomson Reuters [article](#) offers a comprehensive summary.