

**Summary of Higher Education Provisions in
S. 3548, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**

Education Stabilization Fund

- \$30.75 billion total, less 2% for Indian Education, grants to governors in impacted areas and administrative expenses; or \$30.135 billion, divided into three pools.

Section 18002 – Governors (9.8 percent, or \$2.953 billion)

- Allocated to states on basis of 60% of population ages 5-24 and 40% on population of children counted under ESEA.
- Funds are not restricted to public insts. within the state.
- Imposes an MOE on participating states that ties funding for the governors' pool and the K-12 pool to an average of the past three years spending on K-12 and higher education for FYs 20-21.
- MOE doesn't cover capital projects, R&D and tuition revenue.
- The Secty. may waive the MOE requirement for "states that have experienced a precipitous decline in financial resources."

Section 18003 – K-12 (43.9 percent or \$13.229 billion)

Sec. 18004 - Higher Education (46.3 percent or \$13.953 billion)

- Allocates 90% (\$12.558 billion) directly to institutions through the Title IV distribution system.
 - Institutional amounts are calculated using 75% of full-time equivalent enrollment of Pell students at an institution and 25% of the institutional award is calculated using full-time equivalent enrollment of non-Pell students.
 - Students who were exclusively online are removed from the calculation.
 - At least 50% of funds (or \$6.279 billion) awarded to institutions must be used to provide direct emergency aid to students, including "grants to students for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care."
 - Allowable uses for the institutional portion of the funds are broad, and can be used to "defray expenses for institutions of higher education, such as lost revenue, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education."
 - Recipients of funds must retain current employees to the "maximum extent practicable."
- Reserves 7.5% (\$1.047 billion) for minority-serving institutions.
- Reserves 2.5% (\$349 million) for grants to institutions particularly impacted by coronavirus, to be administered through FIPSE.
 - Priority for these grants goes to smaller institutions who received less than \$500,000 under the formula and MSI grants and still have significant unmet need.

Regulatory Flexibility

Sec. 3503 Campus-based aid waivers – Waives the requirements that institutions match federal funds and waives the limits on transferring funds between programs in the SEOG and FWS.

Sec. 3504. Use of supplemental educational opportunity grants for emergency aid – Allows institutions broad flexibility to disburse SEOG funding as emergency grant aid to students.

Sec. 3505. Federal work-study during a qualifying emergency – Allows insts. to make FWS payments for students for a period of up to one year, even if the student is unable to perform the required work due to campus closures.

Sec. 3506. Adjustment of subsidized loan usage limits – Excludes loans borrowed from counting towards annual or cumulative limits if a borrower is unable to complete the term due to a qualifying emergency.

Sec. 3507. Exclusion from Federal Pell Grant duration limit - Excludes Pell Grants awarded from counting towards annual or cumulative limits if a Pell recipient is unable to complete the term due to a qualifying emergency.

Sec. 3508. Institutional refunds and Federal student loan flexibility – suspends an institution’s obligation to return Title IV funds if a student withdraws during a payment period due to a qualifying emergency. Suspends a student’s obligation to return Title IV aid they have received if they withdraw during a payment period due to a qualifying emergency. Relieves borrowers of the obligation to repay loans that were taken out if they withdraw due to a qualifying emergency during the payment period those loans were borrowed for. Allows for institutions to allow students to take a leave of absence without needing to return in the same semester.

Sec. 3509. Satisfactory academic progress – Allows institutions to exclude terms impacted by a qualifying emergency in the calculation of a student SAP.

Sec. 3510. Continuing education at affected foreign institutions – Allows for otherwise eligible programs at foreign institutions to be eligible for Title IV aid for distance education.

Sec. 3512. HBCU Capital financing – Requires the Secty. to make principal and interest payments on these loans during a deferment period in which the institutions are not obligated to make any payments.

Sec. 3513. Temporary relief for federal student loan borrowers – Suspends borrowers’ obligation to make payments on their federal Direct Loans through September 2020; suspends interest on the payments; counts the suspended payments towards payment requirements for forgiveness provisions; suspends garnishment of wages, Social Security and tax refunds, among other measures, for borrowers in default during this period.

Sec. 3517. Waiver authority and reporting requirement for institutional aid - Authorizes the Secretary to waive certain statutory provisions regarding the distribution and uses of grant funding for minority-serving institutions, including graduate programs at HBCUs.

Sec. 3518. Authorized uses and other modifications for grants – Allows the Secty. to waive requirements regarding the allowable uses of grant funding and requirements on matching grants at the request of the institution.

Sec. 3519. Service obligations for teachers – Modifies the category of extenuating circumstances for the purposes of calculating a TEACH Grant recipient’s service obligation to include a qualifying emergency. Includes part-time or semester interrupted by a qualifying emergency towards a TEACH Grant recipient’s service obligation. Ensures that semesters of service interrupted by a qualifying emergency count towards consecutive years of service.

Encourage More Charitable Giving:

- **Temporary Universal charitable tax deduction.** A temporary universal charitable tax deduction for donations of up to \$300 per individual to both itemizers and nonitemizers.
- **Temporary suspension of charitable contribution limits.** The charitable tax deduction claimed by a taxpayer each tax year is generally limited to no more than 50% of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income (AGI), unless a taxpayer gives only cash, in which case the limit increases to 60% of AGI. The bill will temporarily suspend the cash contributions limitation for the charitable tax deduction per taxpayer in 2020.

Sec. 127 – Expansion of Employer Provided Education Assistance to Student Loan Forgiveness:

- Sec. 127 employer provided education assistance expanded to include student loan repayment up to \$5,250 per year made by an employer to the employee or to a lender of principal or interest on any qualified education loan as a tax-free benefit. To qualify, payments must be made before Jan 1, 2021.

Delayed payment of payroll taxes:

- Employers, including public and private nonprofit institutions, are permitted to delay payment of FICA payroll taxes until Jan. 1, 2021. Employers who choose to delay payment of payroll taxes will have to repay 50% by 12/31/2021 and the remaining 50% by 12/31/2022.

Scientific Research Funding

- National Science Foundation: \$75 million to respond to the COVID-19
- NASA: \$60 million to respond to COVID-19
- Department of Energy Office of Science: \$99.5 million to respond to COVID-19 and provide “support and access to scientific user facilities”. This is being included so researchers can use DOE's supercomputers.
- NIH (scattered among various institutes within NIH)
 - NHLBI: \$103.4 million
 - NIAID: \$706 million
 - NIBIB: \$60 million
 - National Library of Medicine: \$10 million
 - NCTAS: \$36 million
 - Office of the Director: \$30 million
 - Total NIH: \$945 million

Cultural Agencies Funding

- Provided to states and through direct grants.
- National Endowment for the Arts: \$75 million
- National Endowment for the Humanities: \$75 million
- Institute of Museum and Library Services: \$50 million