

# What Will the Largest-Ever Federal Investment In Education Mean for Schools?

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# Three federal packages provide relief funds to SEAs and districts

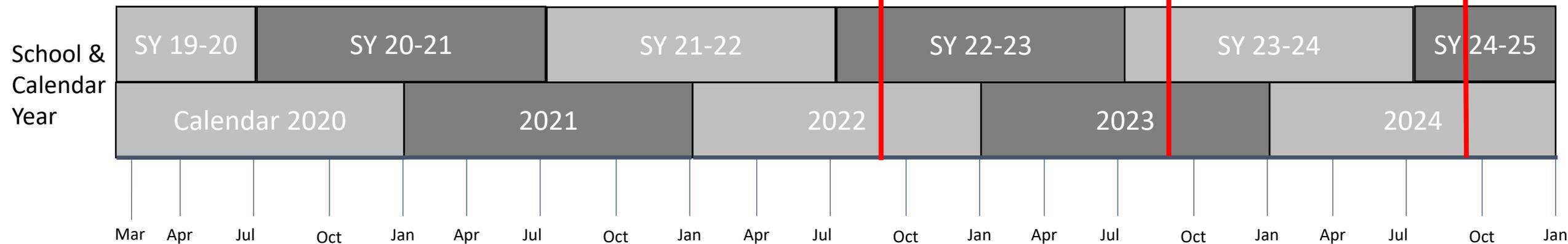
**\$123B ARP ESSER III.** Districts must obligate by 9/2024 ~\$2,400 /pupil

**\$54B CRSSA ESSER II.** Districts must obligate by 9/2023 ~\$1,100 /pupil

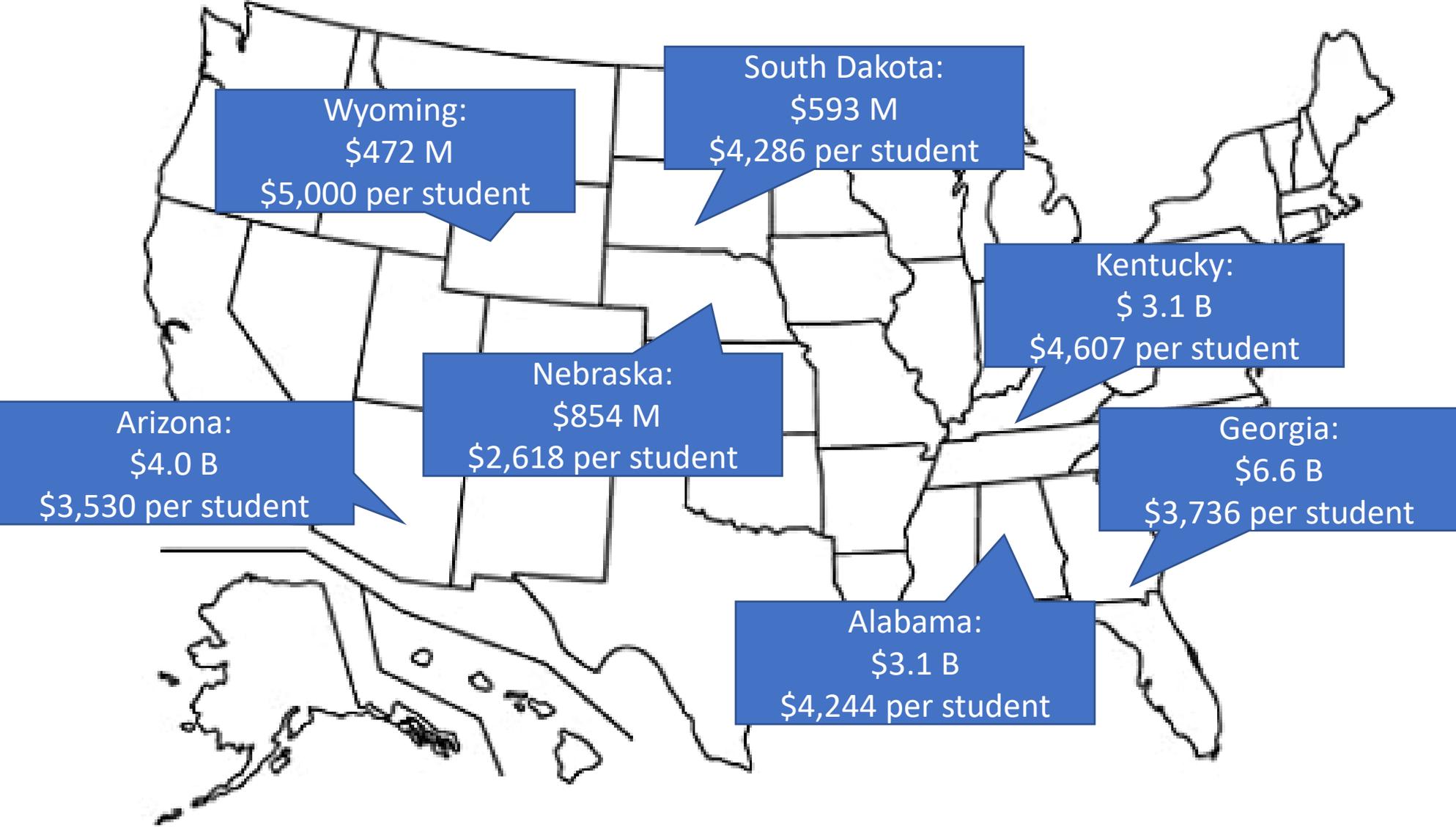
**\$13B CARES ESSER I.** Districts must obligate by 9/2022 ~250pp

Districts: 20% must be used for learning recovery (SEAs: 5%)

Broadly flexible. DoED: expenses must relate to COVID.



# Money for ESSER (I, II & III) varies by state (and by district)



The average annual education spending in the US is ~\$13K per student

# American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

← ESSER 3 (\$122.8B) →

## Big Takeaways

90% allocated to districts via Title I formula.  
\$109.8B  $\approx$  \$2,200 /student

- Title I rules do not apply.
- Districts not eligible for Title I get no \$.
- Quirks in Title I formula mean that some get as much as \$16,000/student.
- Districts must use  $\geq 20\%$  for learning recovery.
- Districts must submit spending plan to SEAs in next few weeks.

10% SEA  
reserve  
(\$12.2B!)

$\geq 5\%$  learning  
loss

$\geq 1\%$   
summer  
enrichment

$\geq 1\%$   
afterschool

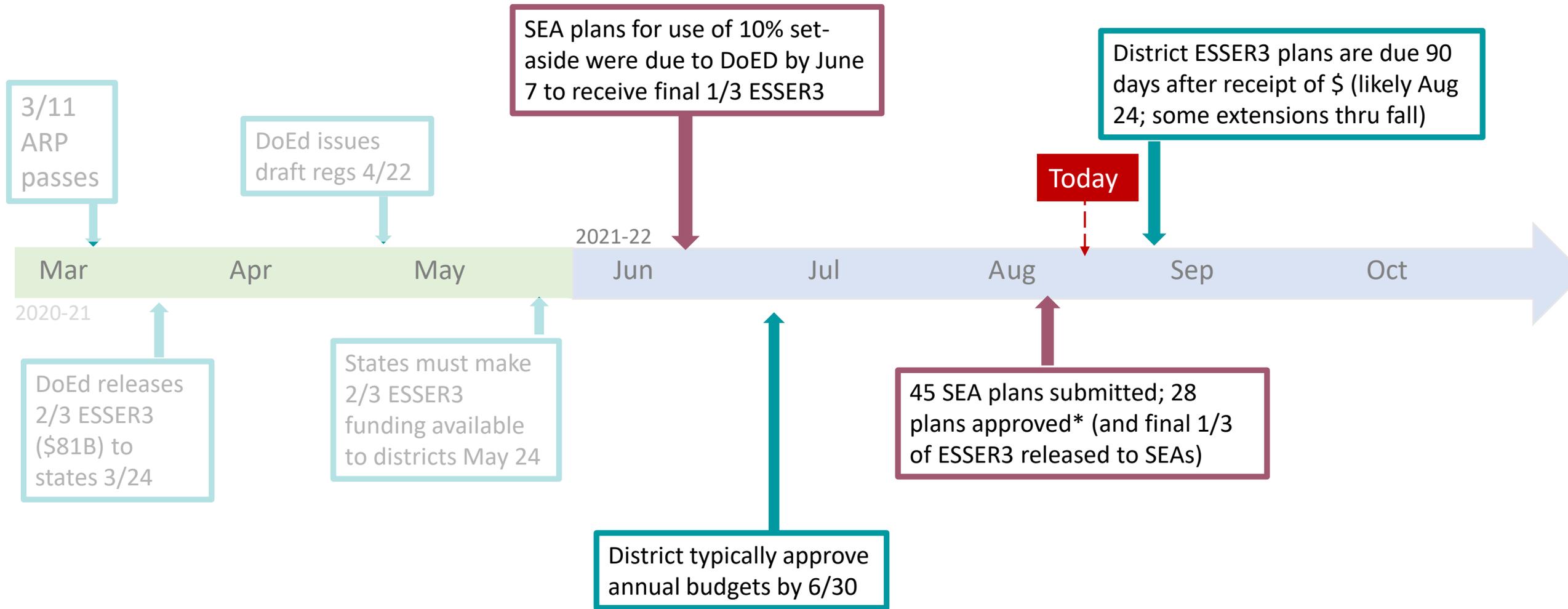
2.5% SEA  
discretion

$\leq \frac{1}{2}\%$  admin

- \$122.8 B with no big ask in return
- 90% flows directly to districts (thru Title I)
- But it's not Title I \$
- Huge influx of cash for SEAs
- a LOT of flexibility for districts (and a fair amount for SEAs as well)

\$ 800M for homeless youth for wraparound services and to enable school participation

# For districts, the clock is ticking...



\*As of August 15, 2021



**Who decides how to spend the 90% of ESSER3 that goes directly to districts?**

A: Districts do.

**What do the feds say about how the district portion of ESSER3 \$ should be used?**

20% must “address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive afterschool programs, or extended school year”



# Which of the following is not an allowable district use of ESSER3 funds?

- A. Enlarge the gym
- B. Reinstate a 5% pay raise that was put on hold
- C. Pay the Kumon fee for any student who opts in
- D. Pay for staff positions that would otherwise be cut due to enrollment declines
- ~~E.~~ Replenish the reserve fund
- F. Use ESSER funds to supply COVID-19 tests at school sites
- G. Give parents \$100/month to ensure students are fully participating in school

This money is highly flexible. Districts are the ones who decide how to spend it!

“Wait - Districts are allowed to give \$ to families?!”

Yes to pay for stuff, or to do something.



**“Must the other 80% relate directly to COVID?”**

No.

**“May an SEA or state legislature limit a district’s use of ESSER funds?”**

No.



So the feds aren't telling districts how to spend their money, but they are saying:

## Districts. Must. Involve. Community. In. Decisions.

### “Meaningful Consultation” requirement:

Districts and SEAs must engage in “**meaningful consultation**” when creating plans to spend the dollars and demonstrate how they incorporated feedback



- ✓ Students
- ✓ Families
- ✓ School admins
- ✓ District admins
- ✓ Spec. Ed admins
- ✓ Teachers
- ✓ Principals
- ✓ Other educators,
- ✓ School staff,
- ✓ Employee unions

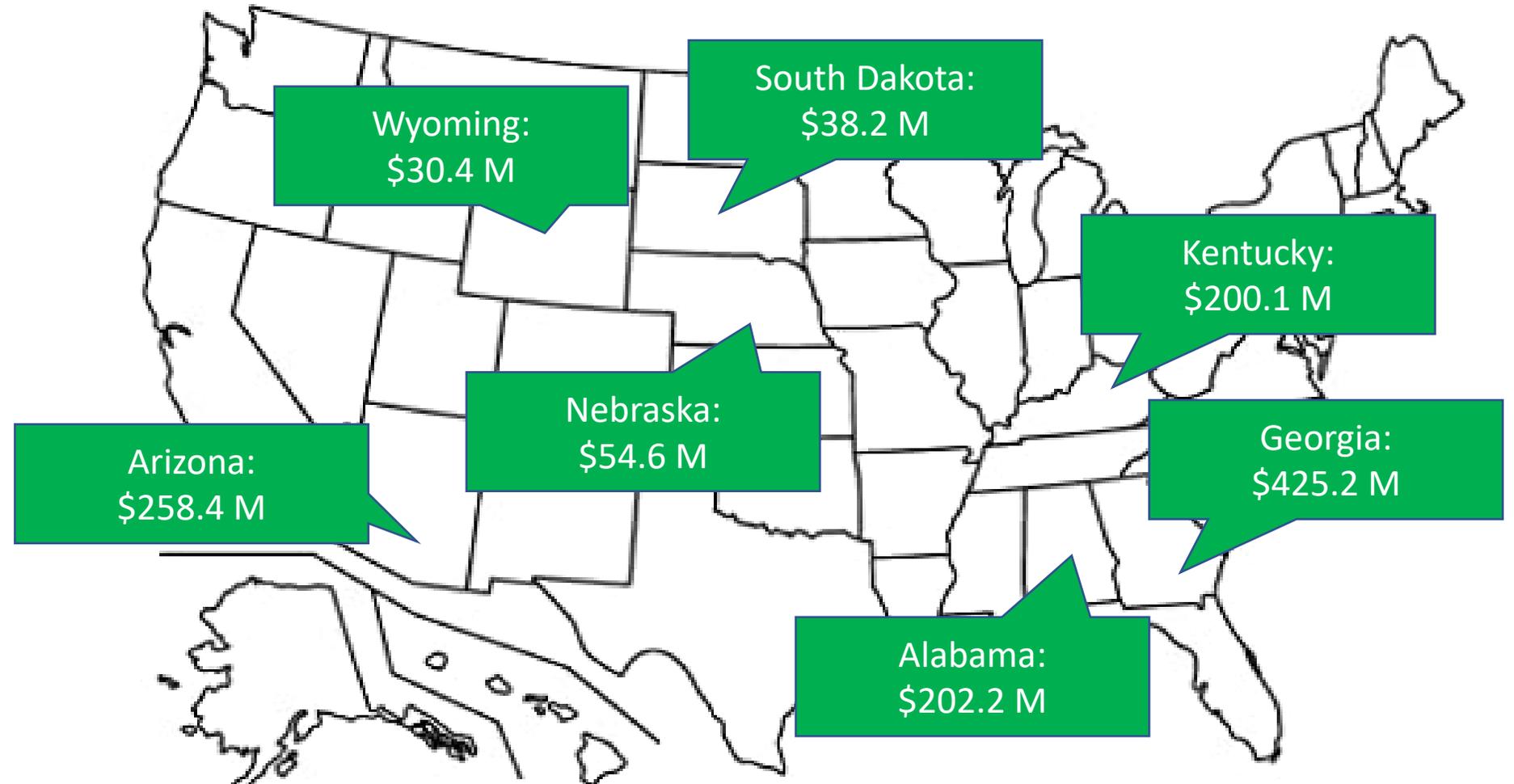
- ✓ Tribes
- ✓ Civil rights orgs
- ✓ Disability rights orgs
- ✓ Stakeholders representing students types including:
  - Disabilities
  - English learners,
  - Experiencing homelessness,
  - Foster care,
  - Migratory,
  - Incarcerated,
  - Other underserved



# What should we expect in return for the 10% going to SEAs?

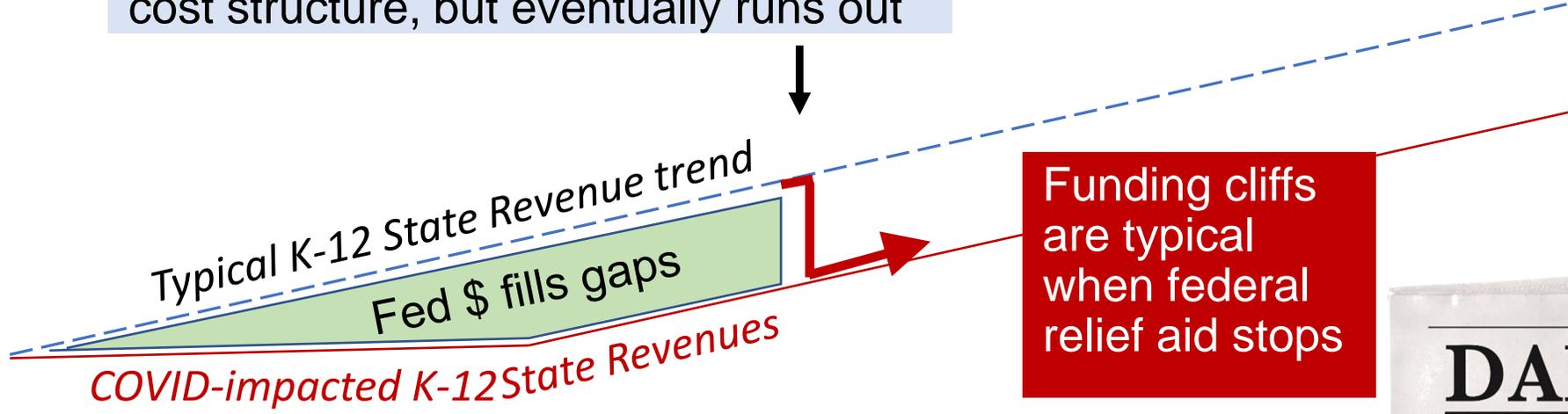
(Hint: It's a lot of money for SEAs, when SEAs generally focus on compliance.)

**A: A lot**



# ESSER funding is non-recurring

Federal \$ enables districts to maintain cost structure, but eventually runs out



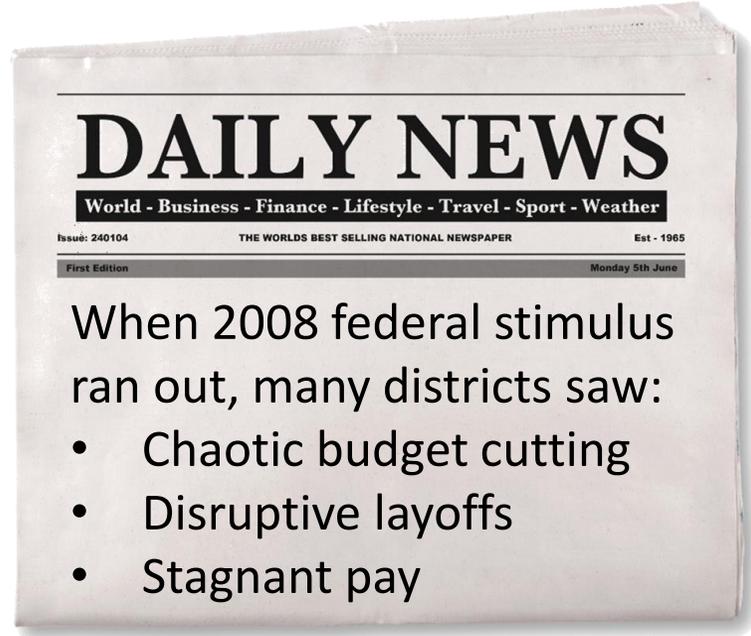
2020

2021

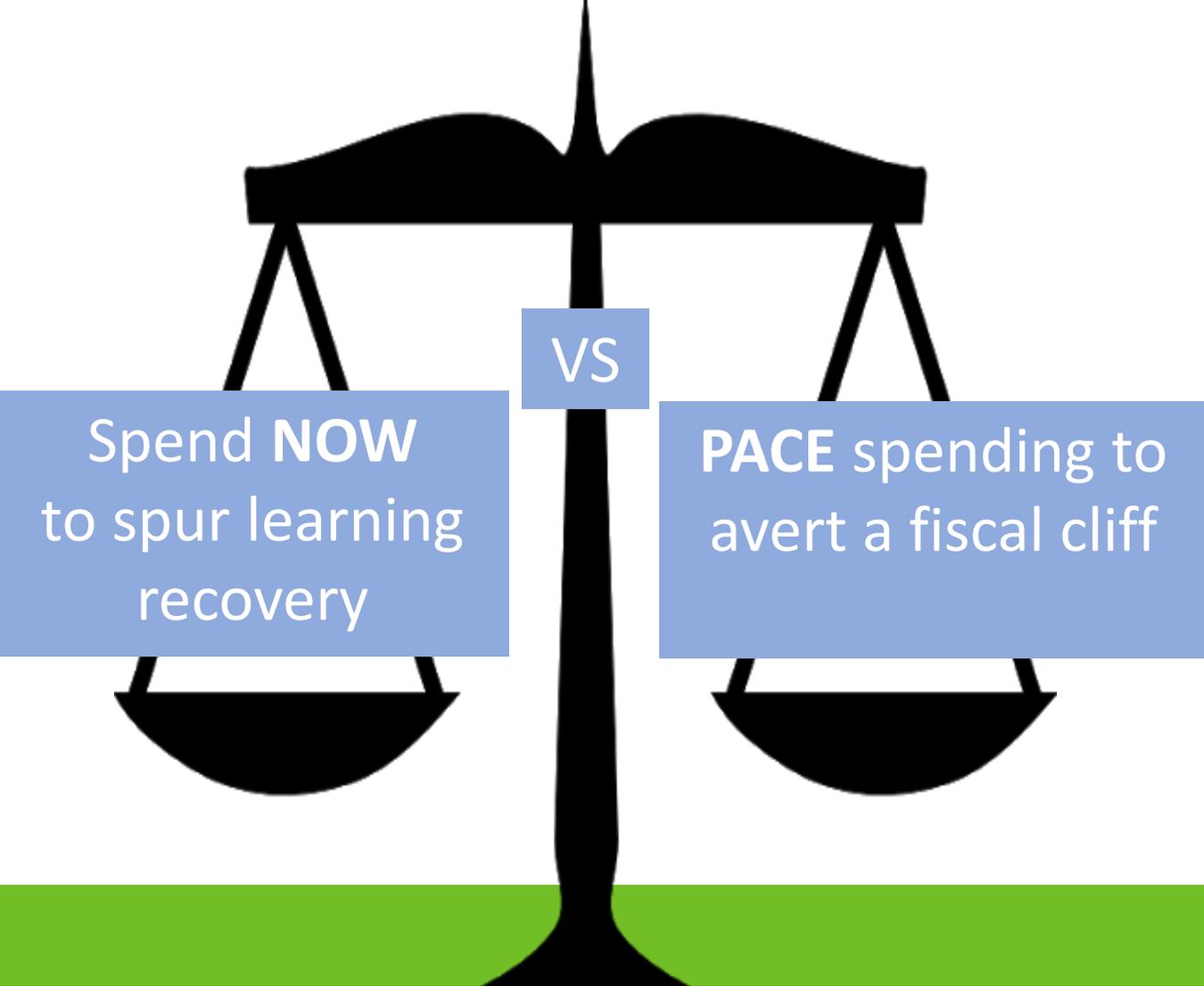
2022

2023

COVID HITS!



# A multi-year spending plan can address immediate needs while avoiding a fiscal cliff



Commit to a spending plan.

How about...?

40%	SY21-22
30%	SY22-23
20%	SY23-24
10%	SY24-25



*It's still very early*, but in our tracking of districts, so far:

## **We're seeing lots of this:**

- Thank you payments to staff
- Filling budget gaps
- Plans to hire counselors, nurses, specialists
- Class size reduction (hiring more teachers)
- Facilities projects
- Tech/curriculum updates
- Planning time for staff

## **and less of this:**

- Tutoring
- Added weeks to school year
- More learning time
- Customized options where families select what works for their kids
- New delivery models
- New content/course options



# *And we're seeing some of these noteworthy choices*

## ✓ **Compensation that breaks with traditional structures:**

- One-time payments
- Hiring bonuses, targeted bonuses
- Fixed dollar payments (vs longevity-based)

## ✓ **Funding services through community partners**

- Museums, camps, etc.

## ✓ **Leveraging students/families differently**

- Paying high schoolers to tutor elementary kids
- Parent training

## ✓ **Federal funds passed through to schools for school-based decisions**

## ✓ **Surveys to parents to ask for input**



# Thank you!

## Q & A

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