



RAISE THE BAR:

Achieve Academic Excellence

Accelerate Learning for Every Student



Let’s help all students reach new heights of academic achievement. Doing so is more important than ever, as the pandemic brought once-in-a-generation interruptions to students’ learning, and results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress confirm that our students need continued, strong supports to thrive in school.

“Raise the Bar: Lead the World” is the U.S. Department of Education’s call to action to transform education and unite around what works—based on decades of experience and research—to advance educational equity and excellence. As part of our Raise the Bar efforts, the Department is urgently working to help state and local leaders double down on strategies that can bring student learning beyond pre-pandemic levels and to close underlying opportunity and achievement gaps in education.

Recognizing that the pandemic would have a devastating impact on students’ learning and that it would take years of effort and investment to reverse the damage as well as to address declines in student academic outcomes that preceded it, the Department distributed, in record time, \$122 billion in American Rescue Plan funds. These resources were integral to swiftly reopen schools—from 46 percent open for in-person learning when President Biden took office to 100 percent open today. American Rescue Plan funds also have been critical to help our nation’s schools address lost instructional time and students’ needs. The Department launched other important efforts, including the [National Partnership for Student Success](#) to recruit tutors and mentors to help students catch up academically and the [Engage Every Student Initiative](#) to ensure that every child who wants a spot in a high-quality out-of-school-time program has one.



Keys to Accelerate Learning for Every Student

The Department is committed to continuing this work by ensuring states and districts deploy federal pandemic relief funds in evidence-based ways, promoting promising practices, and providing technical assistance and opportunities for new or continued grant funding.

 <p>PANDEMIC RELIEF FUNDS</p>	 <p>HIGH-QUALITY TUTORING AND AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING</p>	 <p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p>	 <p>GRANTS</p>
<p>Ensure every state and district is maximizing American Rescue Plan funds to employ evidence-based strategies to spur learning recovery, address educator shortages, and support the mental health and well-being of students</p>	<p>Promote high-quality programs that leverage well-trained educators, tutors, and mentors to support rich, rigorous student learning experiences</p>	<p>Provide direct assistance to states, districts, and schools and highlight promising practices that support the effective and sustainable use of American Rescue Plan funds for learning recovery and acceleration, including through a Raise the Bar: Math and Literacy Summit</p>	<p>Offer support to states and districts in providing students with rigorous learning opportunities in math, literacy, and other subjects and in sustaining historic investments from the American Rescue Plan through formula grant funds to build on progress</p>

Visit [Raise the Bar: Achieve Academic Excellence](#) to read more about the specific strategies outlined here, connect to resources and technical assistance, and learn about federal grants that can support these strategies.