



On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), releasing funding throughout all levels of government to tackle a wide range of needs arising from the pandemic. A large portion of ARPA funding is directed specifically to schools across the country to respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs, and to specifically address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on underrepresented student subgroups. This unprecedented investment in arts education can be used for:

- **Professional Learning:** Including PD from arts and cultural vendors and per session for arts teachers for professional learning
- **Personnel:** Including arts teachers
- **Education Services:** In-school, afterschool, or weekend arts education services from arts and cultural vendors
- **Supplies and Equipment** for arts education

Local governments have three years (2021 - 2024) to allocate the funds they receive and five years to spend them. Now's the time to advocate for arts education for your organization!

1. Sign up with your state association of [nonprofits](#), [state arts agency](#), or local arts council for updates.
2. Check in with your current, former, and potential school partners (maybe Arts Liaison, an Assistant Principal, PTA Coordinator); they may need help determining how to spend that money.
3. Build or strengthen relationships with your state and local reps. Ask them about your locality's ARPA distribution plan and how it might support your work.

H/T [NYC Arts in Education Roundtable](#), [Be An Arts Hero](#), [Democracy Beyond Elections](#)