

# PUBLIC HIGHER ED AND ARPA: NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Thursday, June 17

12:00-12:55 PM

[Register Here](#)

*Dozens legislators/aides have confirmed attendance!*

This 55 minute forum will provide an overview of the challenges facing public higher education, as expressed by staff and faculty on public higher education campuses across Massachusetts. Speakers will highlight ways that the Federal ARPA funds can address the most pressing issues and legislative leaders will have an opportunity to respond to the stories and describe the ways in which we can work to address these needs.

You must register to attend this virtual forum!

<https://www.mobilize.us/massteacher/event/395558/>

## **MTA's Proposal for State Appropriated Federal Funds: Recovery and Justice After the Pandemic**

The American Rescue Plan Act is designed to address challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic and to accelerate our nation's recovery in a way that is equitable, sustainable and just. The Massachusetts Teachers Association is presenting three proposals for the use of some of the \$5.3 billion in discretionary funds available to the Legislature to appropriate.

- 1. Emergency Financial Aid to Help Students who Face New and Historic Barriers to Success**
  - Expand the MassGrant program to cover the full cost of tuition and fees for lower income students who are attending a public community college or are
    - in their first two years at a state university or UMass.
  - Provide additional funding for the SUCCESS program to allow campuses to provide the supports needed to help our students thrive.
  - Provide funding for debt relief for graduates of public colleges and universities who want to become educators in our public schools.
- 2. Education Worker Justice**
  - Pay Equity and Access to Healthcare for Adjunct Faculty**

Provide funding to expand adjunct access to health insurance as well as to support pay equity between full-time and adjunct faculty.
  - Paid Family Medical Leave for Municipal Workers**

Establish a reserve, available for several years, to provide the funding needed to cover the employer and employee share of costs of the first year a municipality, district, political subdivision or authority adopts PFML.
- 3. Safe, Green and Healthy Public School and College Buildings**
  - Provide funding to the Massachusetts School Building Authority to start addressing the most urgent safety needs while establishing green, healthy and equitable building standards.
  - Allocate funding for campus carbon mitigation plans including a variety of strategies as well as initial funding for more ambitious critical projects.