

January 21, 2022

The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona:

On behalf of a broad and diverse coalition of education, health, environmental, labor, and industry organizations, we urge the U.S. Department of Education to expeditiously consider how it can extend the timeline school districts have to expend funding for school construction and capital projects under the American Rescue Plan through December 2026.

The Department has played an unprecedented role in supporting school districts throughout this pandemic, and it is in every American taxpayer's interest to ensure that the federal funding can be spent in the most effective way possible. Because ARP is one-time funding, updating school facilities to ensure healthier and safer environments and the best possible utilization of classroom space is among the wisest and most consequential investment decisions districts can make. However, if the timeline for ARP funding is not extended, then critical school facility upgrades and major capital improvements may not be a possibility for many districts across the country.

Currently, school districts are on a tight timeline to spend ARP funding for school facilities improvements such as heating ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) replacement, roofing, , window and door replacements, and retrofitting classrooms and buildings, as the deadline to obligate ARP funds is September 2024. Generally, districts are spending ARP funds to stem

school facilities will not only assist in improving learning and teaching conditions for students