

MTA'S PROPOSALS 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.