### THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN & THE EDUCATION INDUSTRY



# Modernize your cybersecurity, IT, and connectivity with free federal funding

State and local governments and educational institutions (SLED) are beneficiaries of one of the largest aid packages in U.S. history made possible through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (aka ARP). ARP encourages spending to improve information technology (IT), cybersecurity, and connectivity, which have been vital to citizens and businesses during the pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan, the most recent of three congressional COVID relief packages, requires that at least 90 percent of the unprecedented billions in federal education funding go to school districts and charter schools, and that state education authorities draft plans for spending their share of the funding — up to 10 percent of a state's allocation — before receiving the final third of the money.

# Key things to know...



Connectivity & cybersecurity are top challenges education orgs can address with ARP funds.



Educational organizations get \$172.75 billion in ARP funding



Connectivity & cybersecurity with expert config & management are ideal for overburdened IT teams



Education funding expires September 30, 2023



55% of decision-makers plan to use ARP funding on technology and broadband infrastructure

Technology modernization, cybersecurity modernization, and broadband infrastructure constructions are specifically designated as projects that qualify for funding. ARP funds can also go toward building a better infrastructure for technology in general. That means investing in things like better access points, new switches, and improved cabling.

"Recipients may provide necessary investments in cybersecurity, including modernization of hardware and software, for existing and new broadband infrastructure regardless of their speed delivery standards," ...the rule reads.



A survey of nearly 500 education IT professionals found that 44% said their institution was hit by ransomware in 2020, with 58% saying that cyber criminals succeeded in encrypting data.



Ransomware attacks against U.S. colleges and universities doubled between 2019 and 2020.



Cybersecurity incidents aimed at K-12 school systems could jump by 86% in the coming academic year.



Schools that paid ransom only got back 68% of their data on average, while those with strong backups were more successful at retrieving data. The Emergency Connectivity Fund has delivered more than \$36 million to increase access to reliable broadband for thousands of West Virginia students, teachers and library visitors.

- Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV)

## In the news...

Broward County Public Schools in Florida hit with a ransomware attack! Payment of \$40 million was requested. The district refused to pay the ransom and the hackers have now published more than 25,000 files.

North Carolina Community Colleges allocate \$3.7 million to combat cyberattacks. \$15 million of North Carolina Funds to go to 25 rural Community Colleges to improve their connectivity.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools expected to spend some \$30 million on cybersecurity-related expenses, after a year in which the Florida district has suffered "more than a dozen distributed denial of service attacks."

## Why should education organizations choose TPx?

1

We solve the biggest IT issues — cybersecurity, connectivity and ollaboration — under one umbrella.

2

We're on the NASPO vendor list, which makes buying from us a breeze for SLED organizations.

3

We have the IT solutions, staff and experience you need for effective results within your budget.

4

We have 120+ certifications across 60+ competencies, like CompTIA, Cisco, Fortinet, AWS, SMC and more.

5

We're trusted by 650+ customers like Fort Worth ISD, Palo Alto Unified, Pepperdine University, and the University of Pittsburg. 6

We modernize your IT, connectivity and communications while minimizing your risk from cyberthreats.

7

With 23,000 clients in 50,000+ locations, we're big enough to get the job done and small enough to be agile.

8

We mix and match solutions and deliver a variety of service levels customized to meet your needs.

### Our services...



UCx with Webex



Managed Datacenters



Managed SD-WAN

Managed

Microsoft 365





Pro Security Services



Managed Endpoints



Managed Networks



Managed Backups

#### Want to learn more?

Download our free American Rescue Plan IT Funding Guide for State, Local and Educational Agencies



Or schedule a free consult with our experts at tpx.com.