



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

Telephone
(617) 796-1100
Fax
(617) 796-1113
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089
Email
rfuller@newtonma.gov

Newton ARPA Investment
Newton Public Schools Covid-Related Costs - \$2.33 million

Update (3/17/2022):

Newton Public School COVID-19 Related Expenditures - \$820,000

The COVID-19 pandemic created significant costs for the Newton Public Schools along with revenue losses, both somewhat offset by direct state and federal grants to NPS. The City of Newton, separate from NPS, has also faced new costs and revenue losses and also received state and federal grants. As the grants to NPS have only partially made up for pandemic costs and revenue losses, the City has invested significant portions of its state/federal grants to assist the students.

In addition to previously allocated support, we are also providing NPS with \$820,000 in ARPA funds to cover important COVID-19 related expenditures. These include:

- Classroom air quality monitoring devices
- Air purifiers
- Medical supplies
- Wi-Fi hotspots

Update (4/7/2022):

Newton Public Schools Covid-Related Expenditures - \$1.51 million

My goal since the pandemic began has been to provide the Newton Public Schools with financial support to help teaching and learning in these difficult times. We have been “all in” on using CARES and ARPA funds to cover their COVID-19 related costs.

Yesterday, as the NPS financial team scrubbed their books, they let me know of \$1.1 million in COVID-19 related projects that had not yet been reimbursed as well as a number of summer projects involving ventilation and new space for specialized programs. These one-time COVID related expenses are exactly the right use of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and I immediately agreed to provide the funding.

Thus, I am providing an additional \$1.51 million in ARPA funds, which in turn will relieve

some of the budget challenges facing the Newton Public Schools.

Altogether we have provided NPS with just under \$16 million of ARPA funds and \$6.4 million of CARES funds. The allocation for the NPS operating budget for next fiscal year, FY2023, is also increasing by 3.5% or almost \$9 million to \$262 million.

School Superintendent David Fleishman is using these funds to support students' academic, social and emotional needs. More specifically, he will reinstate approximately 20 full-time positions. These include elementary literacy interventionists and math intervention aides at all elementary schools, two and four teacher teams at the middle schools, and secondary school guidance counselors.

Our children are our highest priority and these one-time ARPA funds are helping a lot.