

SUMMARY OF

CARES Act: Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (New Jersey)

as of May 15, 2020

AUTHORITY

New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)

PROGRAM SUMMARY

On March 27, 2020, President Trump signed the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#). Among its many provisions, the Act includes specific funding sources for Local Education Agencies. Specifically, Section 18003 of the CARES Act establishes the Elementary Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF).

The core purpose of the Elementary and Secondary school Emergency Relief Fund is to provide direct money to school districts and provide funding to support areas impacted by the disruption and closure of schools from COVID-19. The purpose of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund is to address the impact COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools, which includes both: (1) Continuing to provide educational services while schools are closed, such as remote learning; and (2) Developing and implementing plans for the return to normal operations.

Grant funds awarded under the Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund may be used by Local Education Agencies for the following:

1. Any activity authorized by the ESEA of 1965, including the Native Hawaiian Education Act and the Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) (“IDEA”), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) (“the Perkins Act”), or subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.).
2. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
3. Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.
4. Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.
5. Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
6. Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
7. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.

8. Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including for how to provide meals to eligible students, how to provide technology for online learning to all students, how to provide guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.
9. Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
10. Providing mental health services and supports.
11. Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after school programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.
12. Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

LEAs that receive funds from ESSER must provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools. The USDE has determined that, under the CARES Act programs, the LEA in which a non-public school is located is responsible for providing equitable services to students and teachers in the school.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are New Jersey LEAs.

AWARD DESCRIPTION

Award amounts vary. ESSER Fund awards to LEAs are allocated in the same proportion as those funds received under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, in school year 2019-20. Allocations were calculated based on federal statute and guidance. Funds may be used for allowable costs incurred on or after March 13, 2020.

Allocations can be seen at:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/boardops/docs/ESSER%20Fund%20Allocations%20Table.pdf>.

DEADLINE DESCRIPTION

LEAs are to submit their applications by June 19, 2020. This is a one-time emergency funding opportunity. Future deadlines are not anticipated.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Note that the USDE generally does not consider the following to be an allowable use of ESSER funds:

1. subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the SEA or LEAs; or
2. expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations.



CONTACT

NJ Title One Office Staff
New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)
PO Box 500
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0500
Phone: (877) 900-6960
Email: titleone@doe.nj.gov

WEB LINKS

Funding Allocations:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/boardops/docs/ESSER%20Fund%20Allocations%20Table.pdf>

Program Page: <https://www.nj.gov/education/covid19/boardops/caresact.shtml>

Miscellaneous:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/broadcasts/2020/may/11/CARES%20Act%20Elementary%20and%20Secondary%20School%20Emergency%20Relief%20Funds%20Allocations%20and%20Application.pdf>

**Consult the program guidance by following the links provided at the above URLs. Additional relevant POCs are provided in the program guidance.*