



C.A.R.E.S. Funding To Minnesota Department of Education

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May 6, 2020



Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity

- 1. Prioritize equity.**
- 2. Start from within.**
- 3. Measure what matters.**
- 4. Go local.**
- 5. Follow the money.**
- 6. Start early.**
- 7. Monitor implementation of standards.**
- 8. Value people.**
- 9. Improve conditions for learning.**
- 10. Give students options.**

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

CARES Funding coming to Minnesota for Education:

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)
- Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)
- Child Nutrition Grants to States
- Library Grants to States
- Head Start and Early Head Start

Next Steps/Timeline:

- Final approval for use of funds / Finalize school allocations
- LAC memo to MMB and the Governor's Office describing flexibility in the use of the funds
- ESSER and GEER grant submissions
- ESSER, GEER, Child Nutrition LAC submissions for spending authority
- Allocate money out to schools
- Make grant funds available through RFP process

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (G.E.E.R)

Purpose: Awarded to Governors for the purpose of providing LEAs, institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education related entities with emergency assistance as a result of COVID-19.

Minnesota's State Allocation: \$43,427,249.

Allowable Uses for GEER Funding

1. Emergency support through grants to the LEAs that SEA deems to have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such LEAs to continue to provide educational services to public and non-public school students and to support the on-going functionality of the LEA;
2. Emergency support through grants to IHEs serving students within the State that the Governor determines have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the ongoing functionality of the institution; and
3. Support to any other IHE, LEA, or education-related entity within the State that the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students for authorized activities described in section 18003(d)(1) of the CARES Act or the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), the provision of childcare and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs.

Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER)

Minnesota's State Allocation: \$140,137,253

Purpose: To provide local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

To be allocated in the following manner:

1. Formula (90%) - \$126,123,528
 - ❖ Allocated to schools based on FY20 Title 1a allocations
 - ❖ Some schools did not qualify for Title 1a money in FY20 and won't receive any of this funding
 - ❖ Tribal schools receive their ESSER allocation through the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE)

2. Grants (9.5%) - \$13,313,039
 - ❖ To be used for emergency needs as determined by the SEA to address issues responding to COVID-19. These emergency needs may be addressed through the use of grants or contracts.

3. Administration (up to .5%) - \$700,686
 - ❖ For administration costs

Allowable Uses of ESSER Money

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, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, or subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
2. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of LEA’s 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 others 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.

Allowable Uses of ESSER Money (Cont.)

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 LEA on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
7. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a LEA, 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.

Allowable Uses of ESSER Money (Cont.)

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 afterschool 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.

Child Nutrition State Grants

Minnesota's State Allocation: **\$160,263,207**

Purpose: Additional funding to cover the reimbursable meal costs of National School Lunch/Breakfast, Special Milk, Child and Adult Care Food and Summer Food Service Programs, in anticipation of there being more need.

Allowable Uses: These funds will be used in the same manner as the annual Nutrition Grants. The dollars were amended into their current grant.

- ❖ The CARES funds are to be spent before MDE's annual Nutrition Grant funds.
- ❖ Funds can be drawn starting with the March 2020 claims and going forward through September 2020.

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grants to States

Minnesota's State Allocation: \$509,589

Purpose: To prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including to expand digital network access, purchase internet accessible devices, and provide technical support services.

Allowable Uses:

1. Primarily to address digital inclusion and related technical support targeting Poverty/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Unemployment, Broadband availability;
2. Secondarily to address other efforts that prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19; and
3. With respect to (1) and (2), reach museum and tribal partners, in addition to traditionally eligible library entities, where appropriate.

Head Start and Early Head Start

Minnesota's Allocation is unknown at this time.

Purpose: Up to \$500 million is available for supplemental grants to existing Head Start grantees to offer one-time supplemental summer programs that will prioritize children entering kindergarten in 2020-2021 and currently enrolled children with Individualized Education Programs (IEP's). The purpose of supplemental summer programs is to make up for learning children lost as a result of program closures due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Status: A Program Instruction (PI) with information on these funds including instructions on how to apply was released on April 14, 2020; agencies are not required to apply. At this time 18/37 MN Head Start Agencies submitted a Letter of Intent.

Other CARES Act Information

1. LEAs must provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).
 - ❖ Non-public schools will receive a share of all the districts CARES allocations based on the proportion of students who are enrolled in participating non-public schools.
2. THE ESSER funds have a Maintenance of Effort requirement.
3. Library funds can only be allocated to libraries, not school districts

Thank you!

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