



# STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: April 30, 2020  
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Nonpublic School Administrators  
Route To: School Business Administrators, Board Secretaries, Principals  
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Student Services

## The CARES Act: Education Stabilization Fund

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act includes specific funding sources for New Jersey school districts. Section 18003 of the Act outlines the general provisions of the Education Stabilization Fund to include the Elementary Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

The core purpose of the Education Stabilization Fund is to provide direct money to school districts and allow funding to support areas impacted by the disruption and closure of schools from COVID-19. In accordance with the legislation, school districts that received a Fiscal Year 2020 allocation under Title I, Part A of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* are eligible for these relief funds. Allocations are based on a Title I, Part A formula, and will be available to districts through September 30, 2021.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will provide continued updates on the application process as it becomes available.

### Section 18003(d). Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund: Uses of Funds

- (1) Any activity authorized by:
  - \* ESEA
  - \* CTE (Perkins)
  - \* IDEA
  - \* McKinney-Vento (Title VII-B)
- (2) Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to improve coordinated responses among state, local, Tribal, and other relative agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.
- (3) Provide principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.
- (4) Activities to address the unique needs, including how outreach and service delivery meet these unique needs for each of the following student groups:
  - o Low-income students or children;
  - o Students with disabilities;
  - o English learners;
  - o Students of racial or ethnic minority;
  - o Students experiencing homelessness; and
  - o Foster care youth.
- (5) Develop and implement procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs.
- (6) Training and professional development for LEA staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
- (7) Purchase of supplies to sanitize and clean LEA facilities, including buildings operated by the LEA. Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including:

- 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 IDEA; and
  - How to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.
- (8) Purchase of educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the LEA that supports 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).
- (9) Provide mental health services and supports.
- (10) Plan and implement activities related to summer learning and supplemental after school programs, including providing classroom instructor or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of:
- Low-income students or children
  - Students with disabilities
  - English learners
  - Migrant students
  - Students experiencing homelessness
  - Foster care youth
- (11) Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in LEAs and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA.

**Section 18005(a): Assistance to Nonpublic Schools Requirement**

An LEA receiving funds under section 18003 of this title shall provide equitable services in the same manner as provided under ESEA section 1117 to students and teachers in non-public schools, as determined in consultation with representatives of non-public schools.

**Section 18006: Continued Payment to Employees Requirement**

An LEA that receives funds under “Education Stabilization Fund,” shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to COVID-19.

**Section 15011: Reporting on Use of Funds**

Section 15011 applies to any recipient that receives large covered funds (more than \$150,000) through September 30, 2022. Each calendar quarter report information on the following:

- Total amount of large covered funds received from the agency;
- The amount of large covered funds expended or obligated for each project or activity;
- A detailed list of all projects or activities for which large covered funds were expended or obligated, including:
  - The name of the project or activity;
  - A description of the project or activity; and
  - The estimated number of jobs created or retained by the project or activity (where applicable); and
- Data elements required to comply with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA)

**Contact Information**

Please direct all questions to [Titleone@doe.nj.gov](mailto:Titleone@doe.nj.gov).

c: Members, State Board of Education  
Lamont O. Repollet, Commissioner  
NJDOE Staff  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Garden State Coalition of Schools  
NJ LEE Group