



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 17, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: ESEA Directors, Directors of Special Education, School Business Administrators
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds Use of State Set-Aside Funds

Section 18003(e) of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act authorizes the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) to reserve a portion of the Department's [ESSER Fund allocation](#) for emergency needs, as determined by the Department to address issues responding to COVID-19. This includes, but is not limited to, continuing to provide educational services such as remote learning while schools remain closed for in-person instruction, and developing and implementing plans for the return to normal operations.

The Department will support several target areas with these State set-aside funds. In the coming weeks, State set-aside funds will be made available to:

- Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that were not eligible for an allocation from the formula portion of the grant as a result of not having received funds under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in the 2019-20 school year. (See the Department's formula grant allocation [table](#). Such LEAs are marked with an asterisk.);
- Public educational institutions in which public school students are educated, that were not eligible for an allocation from the formula portion of the grant as a result of not being an LEA. Specifically, these subgrants will be provided to: Special Services School Districts (SSSDs); educational institutions run by State agencies including the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Corrections (DOC); the Juvenile Justice Centers; and Juvenile Detention Centers;
- Districts that received funds under Title 1, Part A of the ESEA in 2019-20, if applicable, to fund the difference between (1) the portion of its ESSER allocation the district must actually dedicate to equitable services for nonpublic schools (based on a nonpublic school's share of total enrollment in the LEA, in accordance with guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education), and (2) the portion of its ESSER allocation the district would have to dedicate to equitable services if equitable shares were based on a nonpublic school's share of Title I-eligible students residing in the LEA;
- Support formula grants to LEAs for the purchase of 1:1 instructional devices (e.g., Chromebooks, iPads) and connectivity;
- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, to address the Social-Emotional Learning needs of students impacted by COVID-19; and
- Support competitive grants for LEAs prioritizing activities that address learning loss in students, the need for additional summer instruction, compensatory education for students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), Social-Emotional Learning, and support for students experiencing homelessness.

The Department is working diligently to finalize the funding mechanisms for each of the targeted areas listed above and will provide more information on the application process as it becomes available. Additional details, application materials, and related information will be released throughout the summer.

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