



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 11, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School, Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: ESEA Directors, Directors of Special Education, School Business Administrators
From: Peggy McDonald, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services

CARES Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds Allocations and Application

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act includes specific funding sources for Local Education Agencies (LEAs). Specifically, section 18003 of the Act establishes the Elementary Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. The core purpose of the ESSER Fund is to provide direct money to LEAs to address the areas most impacted by the disruption and closure of schools caused by COVID-19.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has released LEAs' ESSER Fund allocations. All school districts have access to the allocations on the [CARES Act Education Stabilization Fund allocations page](#).

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. The USED has issued guidance stating that LEAs that receive funds from ESSER must provide equitable services to students and teachers in nonpublic schools. A signed copy of the [Affirmation of Consultation](#) must be emailed to CARESActConsultation@doe.nj.gov. More information regarding the provision of equitable services is available in [guidance](#) issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

ESSER grant applications are now available in the [Electronic Web Enabled Grant](#) (EWEG) system. The deadline to submit an ESSER fund application is June 19, 2020.

Additional information and guidance on ESSER can be found on the [CARES Act Educational Stabilization Fund webpage](#).

If you or your staff have questions regarding the ESSER grant application process, please contact Titleone@doe.nj.gov. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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