

**Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS) Program
Frequently Asked Questions for New Jersey Nonpublic Schools-
Revised/Updated 7/9/21**

Allocations

1. Q: What data were used to calculate each nonpublic school's *preliminary* allocation of EANS funding?

A: The *Nonpublic School Enrollment Report* (NPER) is a self-reporting system authorized by New Jersey State Statute (N.J.S.A. 18A:6-4) to be completed yearly for the purpose of providing nonpublic schools an opportunity to participate in state and federal programs. Data submitted in the FY19/20 Nonpublic Enrollment report were used to calculate each nonpublic school's allocation of EANS funds. A nonpublic school's total student enrollment and total number of low-income students are two data elements reported in the NPER that were used to calculate a school's enrollment and low-income allocations for the EANS program. All data submitted in the NPER are certified by a representative from the nonpublic school as correct prior to submission and are final.

2. Q: What will happen to unused EANS funds (as a result of schools that don't apply, are ineligible and those that indicate no COVID-19 impact)?

A: Based on the EANS applications submitted by nonpublic schools by May 26, 2021, the NJDOE will know if some schools are ineligible for the funds or do not claim an impact from COVID-19 and will not receive the COVID-19 impact portion of their allocations. These funds will be reallocated to the nonpublic schools based on the enrollment and Free/Reduced Meals (FRM) data submitted in the FY20 Nonpublic Enrollment Report. In the event that there is insufficient demand for services or assistance and the NJDOE has unobligated funds remaining six months after receiving those funds, the federal statute requires the NJDOE to return those funds to the Governor for any authorized use under the GEER II Fund, including services and assistance for nonpublic school students and teachers.

3. **Q: How were the Revised Total Allocations determined and how do they differ from the preliminary allocations? (New)**

A: Approved applicant schools have now been provided a supplemental EANS allocation to be used for any additional needs that schools may have to address COVID related impact.

The supplemental EANS allocation is the unused EANS funds as a result of schools that did not apply, are ineligible and those that indicated no COVID-19 impact. Should schools have additional needs beyond those submitted in the original EANS application, these supplemental funds may be used to address those needs.

Complaints

4. Q: What is the complaint process for problems/disagreements with vendors?

A: Nonpublic schools can contact the EANS program liaison, Constance Webster, or their county office with issues.

Uses of Funds

5. Q: What restrictions are there on the use of EANS funds? Will nonpublic schools be able to apply for and receive any of the eligible services and assistance listed in the application and on the NJDOE website?

A: Allowable uses of the funds are specified by the USDE but are generally targeted toward COVID related impacts and return to school costs that will be incurred. The SEA is given flexibility to provide or subcontract for the services and assistance it is able to provide within the timeframe. The public entity service providers with whom NJDOE will subcontract may not be able to provide all of the services listed as allowable uses of funds.

6. Q: Why aren't retroactive reimbursements possible for New Jersey's EANS program?

A: With the amount of other federal programs, including CARES Act equitable services, COVID-19 Technology Funds for Nonpublic Schools, and Paycheck Protection Program funding already provided to nonpublic schools, it would be very difficult to ensure that services or assistance already received have not been funded using these grant funds. Focusing on forward-looking services will maximize assistance to nonpublic schools and students without the additional administrative burdens imposed by a retroactive reimbursement.

7. Q: Will more EANS funding become available as a result of the American Rescue Plan Act?

A: There is an additional allocation to the EANS program in the new federal law. At this time, we only have preliminary information, and when more becomes available, we will provide that information to nonpublic schools.

8. Q: What does it mean that the NJDOE will hold title to all purchases?

A: Essentially, this means the NJDOE will hold title to all materials, equipment and property that it purchases or for which it provides reimbursement under this program. For example, if a nonpublic school requests to purchase laptops for students and teachers to facilitate online learning, the Department obtains title for the laptops from the nonpublic school. The NJDOE may continue to allow the laptops to be used by nonpublic school students and teachers.

9. Q: Can a nonpublic school hire a teacher through the EANS program?

A: No, the EANS program does not cover teachers' salaries.

10. Q: Can a nonpublic school offer after school programming or summer school?

A: After school programming or summer school is permitted under the EANS program if it is to address learning loss. All staffing needs will be provided through an approved provider that holds a contract with the NJDOE.

11. Q: What types of programs and activities related to learning loss are allowable? (New)

A: Per 18003(d)(11) of the CARES Act, planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and afterschool and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care are allowable. In addition, services for students to address the social/emotional needs of students due to COVID-19 may be addressed.

12. Q: What are the certification requirements for teachers/tutors/staff who provide services related to learning loss? (Revised 7/9)

A: Due to staffing shortages, the NJDOE is providing additional flexibility on the certification requirements of staff who will address student learning loss through the EANS program. All instructional and related services to address learning loss must be provided by educators who hold the appropriate state license for the position in which they are working, with the following additional flexibility.

- **Substitutes:** If substitutes meet NJ certification requirements (i.e., possess a NJ substitute teacher's license), then these individuals can serve as teachers in an extended day/year program. There may be instances in which a student's Service Plan stipulates a licensed

teacher (special education/general education) must provide instructional services, so consideration needs to be given to these types of situations. Please reference [NJDOE substitute credentials and service limits](#).

- **Paraprofessionals:** Paraprofessionals, sometimes referred to as teacher aides or instructional aides, can provide instructional services under the direct supervision of a licensed teacher. The licensed teacher must write the lesson plans and prepare the instructional lessons. A paraprofessional is a non-certified instructional staff person who does not hold the position of teacher, but assists in the classroom under the guidance of a teacher. Paraprofessionals do not need to meet ESEA highly qualified requirements. **(Revised 7/9)**
- **Alternate Route Teachers:** If a district employs teachers earning their NJ certification through the Alternate Route Program, then these individuals may provide instructional services in an extended day/year program, before-/after-school program, summer or weekend program, etc., under the supervision of a NJ licensed teacher.

13. Q: Can a nonpublic school that includes preschool provide services to their preschool children through the EANS program? (New 7/9)

A: From the [federal FAQs](#) (C-5): Preschool children who are enrolled in a nonpublic elementary school that receives EANS services or assistance may be served. However, a stand-alone nonpublic preschool is not eligible for services or assistance under the EANS program.

14. Q: Can a nonpublic school provide additional nursing services through the EANS program? (New 7/9)

A: Nursing services must fall into one of the allowable use categories for the EANS program, and the nonpublic school must provide supporting documentation that describes how it fits into an allowable use. If the school wants to use the EANS program to pay for additional nursing services, their sole activities must be either: “Expanding capacity to administer coronavirus testing to effectively monitor and suppress the virus” or to provide “Training and professional development for staff on sanitization, the use of PPE, and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.”

15. Q: Can a nonpublic school replace its ventilation system?

A: The EANS program allows for *improvements* to ventilation systems, including the repair of windows or purchasing new portable air purification systems. Equipment and supplies purchased with EANS funds must be able to be removed from a nonpublic school without

remodeling the school facility. A ventilation system that is installed and becomes a capital improvement does not meet these requirements. Similarly, new windows would not be permissible. A portable air purification system and repairing old windows to facilitate air flow could be allowable.

16. Q: What type of tracking and documentation of equipment and supplies purchased through EANS will be required?

A: Equipment and supplies purchased with EANS funds for students and teachers in a nonpublic school may be used for the authorized purposes of the EANS program during the period of performance (i.e., through Sept. 30, 2023) or until the equipment and supplies are no longer needed for the purposes of the EANS program.

After equipment and supplies are no longer needed for the purposes of the EANS program, the NJDOE may allow the nonpublic school to continue using them in the nonpublic school to the extent they are needed for other allowable purposes under another federal education program, such as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The NJDOE must retain title to, and maintain administrative control over, the equipment and supplies or transfer title and control to another public agency such as a school district that provides equitable services under another federal education program.

EANS Provider Selection Survey

17. Q: Is there a PDF of the survey that I can view in advance of filling it out? (New)

A: Please view a [PDF of the EANS Provider Selection Survey](#).

18. Q: How and where do nonpublic schools participating in the EANS program get more detailed information on the available services and costs of those services to complete the survey? (New)

A: Please reference the *EANS Providers by Service and County* found on the [EANS Program webpage](#) before completing the [EANS Provider Selection Survey](#). This resource lists each provider, the counties they serve, and the services they can provide. Also provided is contact information for each provider so school administrators can contact them for information on their services and costs. Make sure you contact the providers you want to use to understand costs for your school's services and include their processing fee in the allocations you submit in the survey.

19. Q: After a school has selected a provider and its services through the EANS Provider Selection Survey, will it be allowed to make changes to: a) its desired services and b) the amount of funds it has allocated to those services? (New)

A: After a school has submitted its EANS Provider Selection Survey, the school is required to work with the provider/s it selected and cannot change that. However, the school may change both the desired services and the amount of funds for those services, as long as: 1. The new services are an allowable use of EANS funds, 2. the provider is able to provide the new services, and 3. the total amount of funds allocated to the provider does not exceed the total amount allocated to that service provider in the survey.

20. Q: I provided allocations for my selected services in the EANS Program application. When I fill out the EANS Provider Selection Survey, do I need to use the same allocations or can I make changes based on the quotes I receive from my selected provider/s or new needs I've identified? (New)

A: The allocations submitted by the school in the original EANS Program application were estimates to help schools plan, so will not be used to finalize services – the allocations submitted in the EANS Provider Selection Survey will be used instead. Approved applicant schools have now been provided a supplemental EANS allocation to be used for any additional needs that schools may have to address COVID related impact. Should schools have additional needs beyond those submitted in the original EANS application, these supplemental funds may be used to address those needs. Schools should reference the [EANS Program Revised Total Allocations](#) in order to complete the survey.

The survey requires schools to allocate funds to each of the selected EANS services, not to exceed the revised total allocation. The NJDOE will develop contracts with the providers using the data submitted in the survey, including the selected services and costs. The EANS Provider Matching Survey deadline is July 15, 2021. Provider contracts will be finalized no later than August 20, 2021, where upon the selected provider/s will reach out and discuss the nonpublic schools' needs.

21. Q: Will I be able to get the services/equipment I select prior to the reopening of schools in September? (New)

A: The EANS Program timelines, as determined in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, (CRRSA Act) may allow for alignment with the

reopening of schools this fall, however, supply chain constraints and other factors may impact the timing of each schools receipt of services/equipment.

22. Q: Can a school fill out the EANS Provider Selection Survey more than once if it decides to make a change? (New)

A: If a school would like to make changes to its EANS Provider Selection Survey before the deadline of July 15, 2021, it may do so. The NJDOE will use the latest submitted survey in the development of contracts with providers.