



State of Alabama
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)
Local Educational Agency (LEA) Application

In order to receive a CARES Act ESSER Fund allocation, an LEA must submit this application to the SEA.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. LEA Information	
LEA Name	Escambia County Schools
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 307
Physical Address	301 Belleville Ave
City/Town and Zip Code	Bewton, AL 36426
Superintendent's Name	Michele McClung
Contact Person	Lotoya Cooper West/Sarah Walkins
Contact Person Position	Federal Programs Supervisor
Contact Telephone Number	(251) 867-6251
Contact Email	lotoya.cooper@escoschools.net

PROGRAMMATIC, FISCAL, AND REPORTING ASSURANCES

The United States Department of Education (USED) has approved the application from the State of Alabama for ESSER funds under the CARES Act. The availability of funds is from 4/29/2020 to 4/29/2021. LEAs will be allowed to expend funds until 9/30/2022. Pre-award costs to the ESSER fund will be allowed for allowable cost incurred on or after March 13, 2020.

2. Allowable Service(s) Assurance

The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies that:
 The LEA will use ESSER funds for activities allowable under section 18003(d) of Division B of the CARES Act. The United States Department of Education does not consider the following to be an allowable use of ESSER funds, under any part of 18003: 1) subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the SEA or LEAs or 2) expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations.

How will the LEA determine the most important educational needs as a result of COVID-19?

ECS conducted a comprehensive needs assessment to determine the important educational, health and safety needs of the students and staff in each school. The needs assessment was reviewed by a committee that included district and local-school staff, community stakeholders and parents. The committee determination of how the funds would be utilized was based on review of all available data, sound educational principles, and ALSDE guidelines. Based on the needs assessment, the district determined the following areas needed would be essential in response to COVID-19 : technology, PPE, school re-opening planning, virtual and remote programs and cleaning/sanlization materials and equipment.

How does the LEA intend to assess and address student learning gaps resulting from the disruption in educational services?

ECS will utilize the district progress monitoring assessments to determine the needs of the students. Students will be assessed during the first weeks of school to identify deficiencies. Learning gaps will be addressed with targeted instruction, scaffolded within the standards for the current year/grade level of the student. Students will also be grouped based on specific standard deficiencies. Small group standard-based instruction, using tier models, will be utilized to reinforce specific skills and knowledge.

Which allowable activities will the LEA use ESSER funds to provide educational services? (Select all that apply)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Activities authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Activities authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activities authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Activities authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activities authorized by subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act,
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local education agencies 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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of the individual schools.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including building operated by such agency.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 USC 1401 et seq.) and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Providing mental health services and supports.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.

Provide a detailed budget to explain how ESSER funds will be used in your LEA.				
CARES Act ESSER Funds				
FUND SOURCE CODE 4280				
Function	Object	Program	Amount	Brief Description of Expenditure
1100	199	8100	\$7,500.00	Staff Off Contract Days-COVID prep for school re-opening
1100	220	8100	\$932.00	Retirement 12.43%
1100	230	8100	\$465.00	Social Security 6.20%
1100	240	8100	\$109.00	Medicare 1.48%
1100	250	8100	\$10.00	Unemployment .13%
2218	312	8220	\$0	COVID-19 Professional Development Training
3208	340	8300	\$1,950.00	Purchased Services-Sanitizing/Cleaning from COVID
1100	360	8100	\$0	Communication-Hot Spots/Remote Learning Services
6480	384	8000	\$10,000.00	Postage for mailing instructional packets from school closure 2019-2020
1100	384	8100	\$9,000.00	Printing instructional packets from school closure 2019-2020
				See attached

Detailed Budget Continued:				
Function	Object	Program	Amount	Brief Description of Expenditure
1100	410	8100	\$109,500.00	Remote Learning Devices/Flash Drives/Workbooks/Sunday System materials.
1100	414	8100	\$197,000.00	Virtual School Software/Career Tech Virtual Software/Sunday System
3200	449	8300	\$328,500.00	Cleaning Supplies; PPE Supplies; Bottle Fillers; Sprayers etc
4210	463	8420	\$23,760.00	Meal Carts for delivering lunch & breakfast in classrooms
2140	489	8210	\$52,346.00	Nursing Supplies; PPE Supplies; Masks; Shields etc.
1100	495	8100	\$507,100.00	Chromebooks/Laptops for Virtual/Remote Learning
3200	499	8300	\$86,180.00	Electro-static Sprayers; Cleaning/Sanitizing Equipment
4210	589	8420	\$0	Food Sealing Systems for delivering lunch & breakfast to classrooms
2190	339	8210	\$4,000.00	Pixelot System-NFHS Network School Broadcast Program for School Programs for social distancing
9200	449	4900	\$693.00	Cleaning/Sanitizing Supplies; PPE Supplies; Soap/Dispensers etc
9200	489	4900	\$0	PPE Supplies; Masks; Thermometers etc.
9200	495	4900	\$36,042.00	Technology Devices such as chromebooks/laptops for students
9200	499	4900	\$13,845.00	Electro-static Sprayers; Cleaning/Sanitizing Equipment
1100	441	8100	\$42,760.00	Reading Intervention Program Materials
Total			\$1,431,692.00	

What is the LEA's proposed timeline for providing services and assistance to students and staff?

- ECS will begin providing services to students and schools immediately.
- Equipment and supplies for cleaning/sanitizing schools will be purchased and distributed as soon as it is possible in preparation for students to return in the fall of 2020.
- Technology will be ordered as soon as it is possible to be prepared for remote learning if needed.
- Schools will prepare for school opening as planned, but are actively working with the district on a plan of action for a variety of scenarios depending on COVID-19 outbreaks, and any color-coding policy the ALSOE may implement.
- Upon return from summer, all staff will be briefed and appropriately trained in all school cases and procedures for safely reopening schools and interacting with students.
- At the very beginning of the school year, all students will be assessed with the district progress monitoring tool to determine gaps in learning. Each school will implement the standards-based remediation plan appropriate for the grade level organization.
- Through the next two years, the district and schools will continue to offer remediation services, staff support, and work to maintain a high-level of sanitation at all facilities.
- All funds will be depleted by September 30th, 2022.

How will the LEA use ESSER funds to promote remote learning?

In the event of another school closure scenario, ECS will utilize ESSER funds to provide Internet access to as many students and families in the district as possible using a variety of methods. ECS is currently surveying the families in the district to determine, as accurately as possible, what the needs are for student access as well as how many families would prefer a virtual option over face-to-face interactions. Students will receive age-appropriate devices to complete their school work. Work will either be provided remotely or in an "off-line" platform, depending on access.

3. Equitable Services Assurances

The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:

- The LEA receiving ESSER funds will provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under Section 18005 of Division B of the CARES Act.
- The LEA receiving ESSER funds will provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools located within the LEA in the same manner as provided under Section 1117 of the ESEA, as determined through timely and meaningful consultation with representatives of non-public schools.
- The LEA will ensure that it will maintain control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school.
- The LEA will ensure that it will have title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with ESSER funds.
- The LEA will ensure that services to a non-public school with ESSER funds will be provided by the LEA directly, or through contract with, another public or private entity.

Provide a brief explanation of the following: How will equitable service funds be used by the private schools? How will timely and meaningful consultation occur with private schools? What is the proposed timeline for services and assistance to be implemented by private schools?

- One private school in the LEA attendance zone opted to participate in services with CARES Act funds. The LEA coordinated with a team from the private school to develop a plan for providing for the following:
 - Cleaning/sanitization equipment and supplies to be purchased as soon as possible to prepare for the return of students in the fall.
 - Items to provide for the health/safety of students such as masks, thermometers, hand sanitizer, hands-free dispensers for soaps/sanitizers and hand dryers.
 - Provide educational software and technology to students throughout the school year to address gaps in student learning.
 - Consultation with private school on October 15, 2020 regarding amended ESSER application
 - Private school allocation will be exhausted on or before September 30th, 2022.

OTHER ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS

4. Other Assurances and Certifications

The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:

- The LEA that receives ESSER funds will, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to compensate its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to COVID-19 in compliance with Section 18006 of Division B of the CARES Act. In addition, LEAs that accept funds will continue to pay employees and contractors to the greatest extent practicable based on the unique financial circumstances of the LEA. CARES Act funds generally will not be used for bonuses, merit pay, or similar expenditures, unless related to disruptions or closures resulting from COVID-19.
- The LEA will request technical assistance on the use of ESSER funds for remote learning, which includes both distance education as defined in Section 103(7) of the HEA and distance learning as defined in ESEA Section 8101(14), so that students can continue learning during school closures.
- The LEA will cooperate with any SEA monitoring policies and/or procedures with regards to the allowability of expenditures.
- The LEA will use ESSER funds for purposes that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable under the CARES Act.

The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:

- The LEA will provide to the SEA the methodology used to provide services or assistance to students and staff in both public and non-public schools, the uses of funds and demonstration of their compliance with Section 18003(d), such as any use of funds addressing the digital divide, including securing access to home-based connectivity and remote-use devices, related issues in supporting remote learning for all students, including disadvantaged populations.
- The LEA will cooperate with any examination of records with respect to such funds by making records available for inspection, production, and examination, and authorized individuals for interview and examination, upon request.
- The LEA will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations and assurances; the following provisions of Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) 34 CFR Parts 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 97, 98, and 99; the OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR Part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR Part 3485; and the Uniform Guidance in 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR Part 3474.

5. Section 442 of the General Education Provisions Act Assurances

The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:

- (a) Each local educational agency which participates in an applicable program under which Federal funds are made available to such agency through a State agency or board shall submit to such agency or board a general application containing the assurances set forth in subsection (b). The application shall cover the participation by that local educational agency in all such programs.
- (b) The general application submitted by a local education agency under subsection (a) shall set forth assurances
- (1) that the local educational agency will administer each program by the application in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;
 - (2) that the control of funds provided to the local educational agency under each program, and title to property acquired with those funds, will be in a public agency and that a public agency will administer those funds and property;
 - (3) that the local educational agency will use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to that agency under each program;
 - (4) that the local educational agency will make reports to the State agency or board and to the Secretary as may reasonably be necessary to enable the State agency or board and the Secretary to perform their duties and that the local educational agency will maintain such records, including the records required under section 443, and provide access to those records, as the State agency or board or the Secretary deem necessary to perform their duties;
 - (5) that the local educational agency will provide reasonable opportunities for the participation by teachers, parents, and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals in the planning for and operation of each program;
 - (6) that any application, evaluation, periodic program plan or report relating to each program will be made readily available to parents and other members of the general public;
 - (7) that in the case of any project involving construction -
 - (A) the project is not inconsistent with overall State plans for the construction of school facilities, and
 - (B) in developing plans for construction, due consideration will be given to excellence of architecture and design and to compliance with standards prescribed by the Secretary under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in order to ensure that facilities constructed with the use of Federal funds are accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities;
 - (8) that the local educational agency has adopted effective procedures for acquiring and disseminating to teachers and administrators participating in each program significant information from educational research, demonstrations, and similar projects, and for adopting, where appropriate, promising educational practices developed through such projects; and
 - (9) that none of the funds expended under any applicable program will be used to acquire equipment (including computer software) in any instance in which such acquisition results in a direct financial benefit to any organization representing the interests of the purchasing entity or its employees or any affiliate of such an organization.
- (c) A general application submitted under this section shall remain in effect for the duration of the program it covers. The State agencies or boards administering the programs covered by the application shall not require the submission or amendment of such application unless required by changes in Federal or State law or by other significant change in the circumstances affecting an assurance in such application.

6. Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act Assurances

(a) The purpose of this section is to assist the Department in implementing the Department's mission to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the Nation, by -

(1) ensuring equal opportunities to participate for all eligible students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries in any project or activity carried out under an applicable program; and

(2) promoting the ability of such students, teachers, and beneficiaries to meet high standards.

(b) The Secretary shall require each applicant for assistance under an applicable program (other than an individual) to develop and describe in such applicant's application the steps such applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and equitable participation in, the project or activity to be conducted with such assistance, by addressing the special needs of students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries in order to overcome barriers to equitable participation, including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age.

(c) The Secretary may establish criteria and provide technical assistance for meeting the requirements of this section.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter in any way the rights or responsibilities established under the laws cited in section 400(d) of this Act.

What steps does the LEA propose to take to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries to overcome barriers (including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age) that impede equal access to, or participation in, the program?

It is the goal of Escambia County Schools to prevent barriers to teaching and learning. By working to provide a wide-variety of learning options and platforms, ECS can ensure that all students will receive the services needed to meet their educational, health and safety needs. Staff will also be offered a variety of options for instruction as to best fit their teaching style. Escambia County Schools will maintain our collaborative partnerships with all our stakeholders. Relying upon their ability to provide meaningful, standards-based instruction in a professional manner for all of their students, instruction can take place no matter what situation they may find themselves or their students. If any barriers arise from any stakeholders, we will work to resolve them as quickly as possible.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information and data in this agreement are true and correct. I acknowledge and agree that the failure to comply with all Assurances and Certifications in this agreement, all relevant provisions and requirements of the CARES Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136 (March 27, 2020), or any other applicable law or regulation may result in liability under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, *et seq.*; OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR Part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR Part 3485; and 18 U.S.C. § 1001, as appropriate.

Julie L. Madden

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)


LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

(251) 867-6251

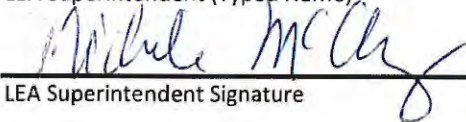
Telephone Number

03/14/2022

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Michele McClung

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)


LEA Superintendent Signature

(251) 867-6251

Telephone Number

03/14/2022

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)


Send completed application to CARESapp@alsde.edu.

Upon approval of the application, funds will be released to the LEA.

ALSDE Internal Use Only

Date Application Received: 3/15/2022

Date ALSDE Approved: 3/31/2022


State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

3/31/22
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____