



State of Alabama
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund
Local Educational Agency (LEA) Application

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. LEA Information

LEA Name	Elmore County
Mailing Address	P. O. Box 817
Physical Address	100 H. H. Robison Drive
City/Town and Zip Code	Wetumpka, AL 36092
Superintendent's Name	Richard E. Dennis
Contact Person	Jason Mann
Contact Person Position	Chief School Financial Officer
Contact Telephone Number	(334) 567-1200
Contact Email	jason.mann@elmoreco.com

PROGRAMMATIC, FISCAL, AND REPORTING ASSURANCES

The United States Department of Education (USED) has approved the application from the State of Alabama for GEER funds under the CARES Act. The Governor of Alabama allocated \$48,851,495 to the Alabama State Department of Education. GEER funds can be obligated through 9/30/2022. Pre-award costs to the GEER fund will be allowed for allowable cost incurred on or after March 13, 2020.

2. Allowable Service(s) Section

The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies that they will use the awarded GEER funds in the following ways (select one option per letter):

A. Private School Equitable Services Allocation

NOTE: Use the Private School Equitable Services Implementation Form for this section.

- ☐ The LEA has no private schools in their attendance area
☒ The LEA has private schools but ALL declined to participate in CARES Act GEER funding
☐ The LEA has private schools that will participate in CARES Act GEER funding

Complete the section below only if you have private schools that will be participating in GEER funds:

Total LEA GEER Allocation	
Total LEA Private School Allocation	
Total LEA Private School Administrative Costs Set-Aside	
Total # of Private Schools Participating	
Total Student Enrollment at the LEA	
Total Student Enrollment at ALL Participating Private Schools	

B. Equip school buses with Wi-Fi capabilities to increase internet connectivity and help bridge the digital divide within the LEA.

LEA Allocation for Section B: \$170,209.00

- ☒ The LEA will use the allocation above for equipping school buses with Wi-Fi capabilities.
☐ The LEA will not use this allocation for equipping school buses with Wi-Fi capabilities.

Complete the section below only if your LEA chooses not to use this allocation:

Reason/Rationale: District needs for bus wi-fi can be met with \$14,070.93

We will transfer this allocation to:

- ☒ Academic Support to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps of Students (C)
Amount to be transferred: \$166,138.07
☐ Before and After School Tutoring for Learning and Remediation in Schools (D)
Amount to be transferred: _____

C. Provide additional academic support to bridge learning and achievement gaps of students within the LEA.

LEA Allocation for Section C: \$448,733.00

- ☒ The LEA will use the allocation above for providing additional academic support to students.
☐ The LEA will not use this allocation for providing additional academic support to students.

Complete the section below only if your LEA chooses not to use this allocation:

Reason/Rationale: _____

We will transfer this allocation to:

- ☐ Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities (B)
Amount to be transferred: _____
☐ Before and After School Tutoring for Learning and Remediation in Schools (D)
Amount to be transferred: _____

D. Provide before and after school tutoring as defined in the Alabama Literacy Act for learning and remediation in schools within the LEA.

LEA Allocation for Section D: \$154,736.00

- ☐ The LEA will use the allocation above for providing tutoring to students.
☒ The LEA will not use this allocation for providing tutoring to students.

Complete the section below only if your LEA chooses not to use this allocation:

Reason/Rationale: Additional funds are needed to provide tutoring for all grade levels and summer literacy camp.

We will transfer this allocation to:

- ☐ Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities (B)
Amount to be transferred: _____
☒ Academic Support to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps of Students (C)
Amount to be transferred: \$154,736.00

NOTE: Only answer the questions below that apply to how the LEA will use GEER funds.

2A. Equitable Services Assurances

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

- The LEA receiving GEER 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 a public agency will maintain control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school under the GEER fund.
- The LEA will ensure that a public agency will have title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with GEER funds.
- The LEA will ensure that services to a non-public school with GEER funds will be provided by a public agency directly, or through contract with, another public or private entity.

Provide a brief explanation answering the following questions:

- 1) Were services from private schools accepted or refused in your LEA?
- 2) If services were accepted by private schools, who accepted and what allocation did they receive?
- 3) When did private schools in your LEA receive timely and meaningful consultation?
- 4) What services will each private school receive and when will the services be implemented?
- 5) How will GEER funds be used to improve remote learning services and support technical capacity and access at private schools within your LEA?
- 6) If a private school administrative set-aside is being taken by the LEA, what is the allocation and how will it be used?

Two private school originally chose to participate: Adullam House Christian Academy and New Life Christian Academy. Consultations were held with both schools. After the method of calculating applications was changed and follow-up consultations were held, both schools declined participation.

2B. Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities

Provide details as to how the LEA will use GEER funds to connect Wi-Fi to district buses.

Elmore County will use approximately \$14,000 of the \$170,209 allocation in this category to increase Wi-Fi capability on school buses. Kajeet Smart Bus Wi-Fi hardware will be installed on approximately 50 buses to be dispersed throughout the district according to student population and with the goal of increasing high-speed Internet capacity in each attendance area.

2C. Additional Academic Supports to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps

Applicable Grade-Level(s) (Check all that apply):

Pre-K ☐ K ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☐ 4th ☐ 5th ☐

Applicable Support(s) (Check all that apply):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ | Reading/ELA Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources |
| ☐ | Math Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources |
| ☐ | Dyscalculia-Specific Screener |
| ☐ | Dyslexia-Specific Screener |
| ☒ | Vulnerable Populations Resources or Supports |
| | ES ☒ MS ☒ HS ☒ |

NOTE: Only answer the questions below that apply to supports selected above by the LEA.

Reading and Math Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Aligns to Alabama ELA and/or math course of study standards;
- Provides opportunities to extend learning and build connections at home;
- Reinforces key grade level concepts;
- Includes grade-level appropriate manipulatives for math and literature for reading;
- Provides individual student opportunities for both intervention and enrichment activities; and
- Includes easy-to-follow planning calendars or activity suggestions for families.

N/A

Dyscalculia Screener

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Identifies dyscalculic tendencies in students and is not time intensive to administer;
- Recommends intervention strategies;
- Presents easy to interpret reports and information on a student's strengths and weaknesses;
- Provides diagnostic reports for teachers;
- Provides parent reports and guidance; and
- Provide additional opportunities to screen students beyond grade 3.

N/A

Dyslexia-Specific Screener

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Aligns to evidence-based science of reading criteria;
- Provides ability and options to universally screen, identify risks, progress monitor, and/or report results in a seamless system;
- Provides recommendations for intervention strategies and/or individualized learning paths to help close achievement gaps; and
- Provides additional opportunities to screen students beyond grade 3 (if applicable).

N/A

Vulnerable Populations Supports

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Provides streamlined approach to gather, use, and monitor identified vulnerable population data;
- Includes tools or resources to assist with development and/or implementation of individualized plans for specific needs of students;
- Includes communication tools to ensure meaningful communication in a language understood by the parents/guardians;
- Provides evidence-based learning activities that align to students' plans; and
- Provides other related or applicable services specific to vulnerable populations.

* See attached documentation. *

2D. Before/After School Tutoring

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Aligns to *Alabama Literacy Act* requirements for students who are identified with a reading deficiency;
- Provides learning opportunities outside of the traditional school day; and
- Includes description of employee duties/responsibilities aligned to intensive intervention needs.

N/A



ELMORE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Richard E. Dennis, Superintendent
Jason M. Mann, CSFO

Vulnerable Populations Supports (page 6)

Vulnerable student populations are identified by multiple data points to include attendance, class grades, STAR Reading, STAR Math, and any other readily available local data sources. State report card data is also utilized for comparison purposes.

Students in grades K-3 who are low performing or have failing grades in reading will be identified for participation in Summer Literacy Camp, a six-week intensive intervention program to help students master the skills required in the Alabama Literacy Act. Literacy Camps will be held on each elementary school campus at no cost to families. Parents will be contacted in late spring with information about the Literacy Camp at their child's school and will be encouraged to allow them to participate. Literacy Camps will operate for approximately 10 hours per week for 6 weeks and may be conducted in person or virtually, according to the current health status in the community.

Students who are low performing or have failing grades in core classes will be identified and provided with opportunities to receive tutoring before and/or after school throughout the school year. Summer enrichment programs are being considered to prevent or slow "summer slide" and will be offered according to student need and parent interest. Before/after school tutoring and summer programs may be staffed by teachers at each school and/or by retired teachers, college students, or other qualified community members with clear background checks.

Several software programs will support our efforts to bridge learning and achievement gaps. These programs can be used for in-person, remote, or blended instruction.

- IXL Science and IXL ELA are standards-based adaptive individualized practice programs to help students progress towards standards mastery.
- Edulastic is an online, interactive, formative assessment tool for students that helps teachers get immediate feedback on student performance and differentiate instruction to meet each student's needs.
- MyOn provides high-quality reading practice using enhanced digital books and age-appropriate news articles.
- Unique Learning System gives students with complex learning needs meaningful access to the general education curriculum. It provides differentiated, standards-aligned content with assessments, data, and instructional support.

Leveled Literacy Intervention is an intense, short-term intervention that provides daily, intensive, small group instruction to supplement classroom literacy teaching. LLI targets students who are not meeting grade-level standards.

Every student empowered. Every student succeeds.

BOARD MEMBERS

Michael Morgan-Chairman Dale Bain-Vice Chairman Leisa Finley Kitty Graham Joey Holley David Jones Wendell Saxon

Behavior intervention materials will be utilized with students who are experiencing academic difficulty due to behavior issues.

KTEA Digital Assessment will enable special education staff to conduct the required student assessments virtually resulting in more timely evaluations and provision of services to students.

Professional development for teachers and training for parents of the effective use of our virtual learning platforms – Odysseyware (K-5) and Edgenuity (6-12) – will be ongoing. Videos for parents regarding virtual platforms and general technology use will be posted to the district website in our Parent Academy area.

English Language Arts teachers for grades 3-12 will participate in professional development on strategies for teaching writing. The Writing Strategies Book: Your Everything Guide to Developing Skilled Writers by Jennifer Serravallo will be provided as part of this training.

To ensure meaningful communication in a language understood by parents/guardians, Elmore County provides translation/interpretive services throughout the district as needed to assist Spanish-speaking families. Language Line will be used for translation of other languages.

3. Budget Development

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

The LEA will use GEER funds for activities outlined in the application and allowable under Section 18002(c) of Division B of the CARES Act. The United States Department of Education **does not** expect administrative or executive salaries and benefits for IHEs, SEAs, or the other education related entities referenced at Section 18002(c)(3) to be a lawful purpose for GEER funds.

Total CARES Act - GEER Allocation: (NOTE: Make sure to Include Equitable Services in the total)		\$773,678.00
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Provide a detailed budget to explain how GEER funds will be used at the LEA as identified by data, needs assessments, and other areas impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3A. Equitable Services

Total Section A Allocation			\$0.00
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Private School Allocation	See Detailed Narrative in Section 2A		
Private School Admin. Costs	See Detailed Narrative in Section 2A		

3B. Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities

[illegible]

3C. Additional Academic Supports to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps

Total Section C Allocation			\$759,607.07
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Salaries	Tutoring and Literacy Camp (off-contract)	1100-199-1200	\$16,874.10
Benefits (If applicable)	Retirement, Soc. Sec., Medicare, Unemp. Comp.	1100-(210-250)-1200	\$3,263.02
Classroom Supplies (including print materials)	Leveled Literacy Intervention kids; instructional supplies to be used in tutoring programs	1100-411-1200	\$94,543.20
Transportation (If applicable)	N/A		
Indirect Costs	N/A		
Other (If applicable)	Unique Learning System	1100-333-2900	\$34,317.65
Classroom books	Behavior Intervention	1100-421-2900	\$7,500.00
Student Assessment	KTEA Digital Assessment	2310-481-2900	\$30,473.82
Professional Development	PD for staff on effective virtual instruction/virtual platforms	2215-312-8220	\$28,485.00
Professional Development	Staff training materials - Teaching Writing	2215-412-8220	\$5,062.31
Software Maint. Agreements	Multi-year agreements: IXL Science & ELA, Edulastic, MyOn	1100-333-8100	\$539,087.97

3D. Before/After School Tutoring

Total Section D Allocation			\$0.00
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Salaries			
Benefits (If applicable)			
Classroom Supplies (including print materials)			
Transportation (If applicable)			
Indirect Costs			
Other (If applicable)			

How will the LEA plan for implementation and measure impact for effectiveness for purchases identified?

Requested purchases were identified based on our students' needs and the evidence-based capacity of these resources to improve student achievement and close learning gaps. Planning is underway and school-level teams (instructional coaches, lead teachers, administrators) will support implementation on their respective campuses upon approval of this application.

Effectiveness will be measured by student growth in the various areas targeted by each specific item purchased, and will ultimately be demonstrated by improvement in class grades, teacher assessments, and other assessments such as STAR Reading, STAR Math, IXL data reports, etc.

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

Services will commence immediately upon approval of this application. All services will end no later than 9/30/2022.

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 GEER funds will, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay 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.
- The LEA will comply with the maintenance of effort provision in Section 18008(a) of Division B of the CARES Act absent waiver by the Secretary pursuant to Section 18008(b) thereof.
- The LEA will cooperate with any monitoring policies and/or procedures with regards to the allowability of expenditures.
- 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 use GEER funds for purposes that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable under the CARES Act.
- The LEA will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations and assurances; the provisions of Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR Parts 75, 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 86, 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 Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR Part 3474.

5. Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act Assurances

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

(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

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?

Elmore County will ensure that all students have access, whether in person or virtually, to any and all programs and resources that will help them meet and exceed academic standards. No student will be denied access or excluded from participation based on their gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and/or age. Any barrier that arises for any stakeholder will be addressed as soon as possible.

6. 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.

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.

Jason Mann

LEA Chief Financial Officer (Typed Name)

LEA Chief Financial Officer Signature

334-567-1200

Telephone Number

3/15/2022

Date

Richard E. Dennis

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

LEA Superintendent Signature

334-567-1200

Telephone Number

3/15/2022

Date

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

Date

Date GEER Funds Released: