



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	Limestone County Schools
Mailing Address	300 S. Jefferson St. Athens, AL 35611
Physical Address	300 S. Jefferson St.
City/Town and Zip Code	Athens, AL 35611
Superintendent's Name	Dr. Randy Shearouse
Contact Person	Allison Romine Usery
Contact Person Position	Federal Programs Director
Contact Telephone Number	(256) 233-5353
Contact Email	allison.usery@lcsk12.org

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?

Limestone County Schools (LCS) completed a comprehensive needs assessment to determine the most important educational needs of our students, families, and staff as a result of COVID-19. LCS conducted two surveys. The first survey was given in May to parents/families, students, and employees to assess the educational services of LCS during the school closure. The second survey was given in July to determine the needs of students and families for the 2020-2021 school year. Survey data was used as part of our needs assessment. A task force with school and community members met to analyze survey results and determine needs. Meetings with various departments as well as the private school located in the district were held to make sure the needs assessment was comprehensive. A summary of the needs assessment showed that additional staff was needed to help with virtual students and social distancing, technology devices, internet connectivity, social workers, instructional needs-like paper to replace paper/toner for paper packets Spring 2020, stipends for staff for additional sanitation, stipends for additional days for nurses to prepare for school reopening after COVID 19, additional staff to prepare devices for virtual program due to COVID 19, sanitation supplies, protective equipment, sneeze guards, retrofit bottle fill stations, temperature stations, and like items to clean, sanitize, and protect students and staff. The non-public needs were devices for remote learning and supplies to sanitize and clean facilities.

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

Summer programs will give DIBELS and STAR to determine learning gaps. Students will be given ESG, IALAKIDS, DIBELS 8, STAR, Scantron Performance Series along with teacher observations and formative assessments to determine learning gaps. Teachers will use Tier II and III interventions with progress monitoring checks to determine rate of improvement on standards. Elementary will develop individual reading plans for students with reading deficiencies in accordance to the Literacy Act. The individual plans will include interventions such as SPIRE, Rewards, Heggerty, Dreambox, and Renaissance to assist in closing the gaps. K-5 teachers will evaluate progress biweekly to make adjustments in instruction as needed. LCS will utilize RTI and MTSS processes in K-12 to keep check on students who are not making sufficient progress. After school programs and summer programs will be offered where funding is available.

Which allowable activities will the LEA use ESSER funds to provide educational services? (Select all that apply)	
X	Activities authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
	Activities authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
	Activities authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.
	Activities authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.
	Activities authorized by subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
	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.
X	Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of the individual schools.
X	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.
	Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
X	Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
X	Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including building operated by such agency.
X	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.
X	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.
X	Providing mental health services and supports.
X	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.
X	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 4290				
Function	Object	Program	Amount	Brief Description of Expenditure
1100	10	8100	\$200,000.00	Additional staff to help with virtual students and social distancing
1100	491	8100	\$530,000.00	Technology Devices like Laptops, iPads
1100	399	8100	\$70,000.00	Internet connectivity
2150	122	8210	\$200,000.00	Social Worker Salaries/ benefits 210, 220, 230, 240, 250/travel 380
1100	411	8100	\$400,000.00	School instructional needs due to COVID 19 (paper/toner to replace for paper packets)
3200	171	8,320	\$174,800.00	Additional staff to sanitize the school facilities and benefits
2140	121	8210	\$20,000.00	Additional days for head nurse to prepare for the start of school
1100	101	8100	\$5,200.00	Additional days for staff to prepare devices for virtual program due to COVID-19
3200	440	8320	\$296,714.14	Sanitation, protective gear, sneeze guards, retrofit bottle fill stations, temperature stations
9200	491	4900	\$3,778.91	Equitable services to non-public school for technology devices
9200	440	4900	\$829.95	Equitable services to non-public school for sanitation

CARES ACT ESSER I Revision

Revisions are in blue.

Provide a detailed budget to explain how ESSER funds will be used in your LEA.

CARES Act ESSER Funds FUND SOURCE CODE 4290				
Function	Object	Program	Amount	Brief Description of Expenditure
1100	010	8100	\$334,663.92	Additional part-time contract staff for virtual students due to COVID (new hires)
1100	018	8100	\$30,005.01	Additional retired contract staff for virtual students due to COVID 19 (new hires)
1100	101	8100	\$252.00	Additional hours for staff (off-contract) to prepare devices for virtual program due to COVID-19
1100	104	8100	\$373.50	Additional hours for part-time student assistants to prepare devices for virtual program due to COVID-19
1100	180	8100	\$377,921.07	Additional substitutes to cover classes due to teachers absences due to COVID
1100	199	8100	\$2,334.65	Additional part-time staff (new hired) to prepare devices, to sort sanitizing supplies, masks, gloves, etc.. to send to schools due to COVID 19
1100	220	8100	\$1,865.74	State retirement for off contract time for employees
1100	230	8100	\$47,516.32	Social security for contract and off contract employees
1100	240	8100	\$11,190.73	Medicare for contract and off contract employees
1100	250	8100	\$261.76	Unemployment for contract and off contract employees
1100	380	8100	\$599.14	School to school travel for virtual school coordinator delivering devices/materials
1100	399	8100	\$45,614.00	Purchased counselor services for virtual students
1100	411	8100	\$216,299.46	School instructional needs due to COVID 19 (paper/toner to replace for paper packets)
1100	491	8100	\$16,302.70	Technology Devices like Laptops, iPads
2140	121	8210	\$18,563.00	Funds for a part-time contract nurse (new hire) salary
2140	230	8210	\$1,151.00	Social security for part-time contract nurse
2140	240	8210	\$269.00	Medicare for part-time contract nurse
2140	250	8210	\$17.00	Unemployment for part-time contract nurse
2150	122	8210	\$134,780.74	Social Worker Salaries
2150	210	8210	\$28,185.75	Insurance for Social Workers
2150	220	8210	\$15,546.55	State retirement for Social Workers
2150	230	8210	\$8,356.28	Social Security for Social Workers
2150	240	8210	\$1,954.57	Medicare for Social Workers
2150	250	8210	\$85.37	Unemployment for Social Workers
2150	380	8210	\$5,589.67	School to school travel and travel for home visits conducted by the social workers
2150	489	8210	\$5,501.07	Supplies for social workers, materials for calming stations
3200	171	8320	\$98,774.55	Additional staff to sanitize the school facilities and buses off contract
3200	220	8320	\$8,212.01	Retirement for off contract staff to sanitize school facilities and buses
3200	230	8320	\$5,624.41	Social security for off contract staff to sanitize school facilities and buses
3200	240	8320	\$1,315.52	Medicare for off contract staff to sanitize school facilities and buses
3200	250	8320	\$36.90	Unemployment for off contract staff to sanitize school facilities and buses
3200	399	8320	\$2,100.00	Purchased service to deep clean schools with large COVID19 numbers
3200	440	8320	\$175,450.75	Sanitation, protective gear, sneeze guards, retrofit bottle fill stations, temperature stations
9200	440	4900	\$829.95	Equitable services to non-public school for sanitation
9200	491	4900	\$3,778.91	Equitable services to non-public school for technology devices

- No changes to private schools.
- All funds will be expended by September 30, 2022.

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

Extra sanitation March 2020 through September 2022. Installation of retrofit bottle fill stations over existing water fountains July 2020. Thermometers and temperature stations July 2020. Touchless hand sanitation stations August 2020. Sneeze guards March 2020-August 2020. Technology devices August 2020. Internet connectivity as needed through September 2022. Instructional needs for students March 2020-September 30, 2022. Additional staff to sanitize school facilities August 2020-September 2022 as needed. Additional days for nurse July 2020-July 2022. Additional days for staff to tag, inventory, and set up new devices July 2020-August 2020. Additional staff for virtual and to help with social distancing August 2020. All funds will be expended by September 30, 2022.

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

Limestone County will utilize ESSER funds to purchase devices for remote learning such as iPads and Chromebooks for students and Chromebooks for teachers who do not already have a district device. Internet connectivity devices and services for students who do not have access to internet. Additional staff will also be hired to help with virtual students. All funds will be expended by September 30, 2022.

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?

The federal programs director reached out to the Lindsay Lane Christian Academy Cub Campus (LLCA) (which is the only non-public school located geographically in the school district) for a timely and meaningful consultation. The first consultation was held via Zoom on 6/8/2020, 7/12/2020, 11/13/2020, and 4/27/2021. Based on LLCA's needs they requested laptops and sanitation supplies. The federal programs director has been in contact several times to let LLCA know about different devices that they asked her to check prices on so they could make a final decision. The devices and sanitation supplies expected arrival date is late July or early August based on vendors' estimated arrival dates. All funds will be expended by September 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 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?

Limestone County Schools will use various methods such as surveys, task force committees, advisory teams to determine what the barriers are for students, teachers, and other beneficiaries. The district will review and analyze student, parent, teacher, and advisory evaluations to remove any barriers that exist. LCS will offer timely access to educational supports and services to remove barriers. Communication barriers will be removed by communicating to parents in a variety of methods in the parents' native language so that each student has equal access to participate in programs throughout the district. LCS will be trauma-informed and equipped to build resilience due to the impact COVID-19 has had on students and their families such as educational disruption, social-emotional health, economic insecurity, increased violence, and substance abuse.

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 Z CFR Part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in Z CFR Part 3485; and 18 U.S.C. § 1001, as appropriate.

Kimberly Hubbard

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)

(256) 232-5353

Telephone Number

05/4/2022

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Kim H. Hubbard, CPA, CSFO

LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Dr. Randy Shearouse

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

(256) 232-5353

Telephone Number

5/04/2022

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Randy Shearouse

LEA Superintendent Signature

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: 5/17/2022

Angela Martin
State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

5/17/22
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____