



**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	Lamar County Board of Education
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 1379
Physical Address	150 Butler Circle SW
City/Town and Zip Code	Vernon, AL 35592
Superintendent's Name	Vance Herron
Contact Person	Wendy Morrison
Contact Person Position	Chief School Financial Officer
Contact Telephone Number	(205) 695-7615
Contact Email	wmorrison@lamarcountyboe.com

**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?**

Lamar County central office staff (Superintendent, curriculum supervisors, CSFO, CNP Director, Lead District Nurse, Special Education Director, Transportation Supervisor, Technology staff) along with school administrators held a series of meetings to determine a system needs assessment. When school was abruptly shut down in the traditional sense, we quickly learned what our most immediate technological needs were concerning virtual delivery. Once we sat down during meetings, we were able to discuss concerns, issues and needs to be prepared going forward as a result of COVID-19. Collaborative planning with stakeholders has made our needs assessment clearer and more precise. The decision was made that major areas where our budget needed to be focused were technology that would be instrumental in virtual learning (smart boards, Chromebooks, laptops); hire a special education teacher to focus on those students who are enrolled in virtual learning who also have an IEP to ensure they are getting the help they need; fund a full time nurse above what our state funding supplies; pay for INow hosting for Schoology integration; purchase licenses so our teachers have the capability to record lessons and store them in their virtual classrooms; budget for overtime due to the extra workload due to COVID and training time; janitorial supplies for all campuses to ensure sanitized schools; POS machines in each lunchroom that have scanners for a touch free lunch period; and furniture which can be easily sanitized in high traffic areas.

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

Once school resumes, our plan is to use Scantron Performance Series to assess our students. We plan to use our RTI period to remediate and intervene to address student learning gaps as revealed by the Scantron results. In addition, the district will use Almsweb Plus to assess students in grades K-3 in math and reading. The district has also purchased an intervention program for reading to be used in grades Pre-K-5 to address student needs. The district purchased the Sonday System as an intervention program. The program will provide multisensory reading instruction to students while incorporating the essential components of reading (phonemic awareness, phonological awareness, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension). The program also integrates a systematic spelling component. The strategies used within the program are consistent with those recommended by the National Reading Panel (2000). Based on proven Orton-Gillingham methods, this program is a direct, explicit, multisensory, structured, sequential, diagnostic, and prescriptive way to teach literacy that is simple, quick, easy to implement and highly effective.



Function	Object	Program	Amount	Description
1100	494	8100	12,000.00	Smart Boards for instruction
1100	495	8100	300,000.00	Chromebooks/Teacher computers
1100	015; 210-250	2900	71,000.00	Special Education virtual teacher sal and fringe
2140	121; 210-250	1601	61,500.00	School Nurse
2190	622	8210	8,613.00	iNow hosting for Schoology integration
2190	622	8210	7,500.00	Licenses for recording lessons
2390	145; 194; 210-250	8230	2,000.00	Tech staff overtime/fringe
3200	171; 210-250	8320	300.00	Janitorial Time for training/fringe
3200	441	8320	60,000.00	Janitorial Supplies at each campus
4210	493	8420	13,200.00	CNP POS Machines touchless upgrades
3400	362	8340	6,940.00	Radios to handle campus changes
6310	133; 141; 194; 210-250	8630	2,000.00	Office staff overtime/fringe
6310	471	8630	2,000.00	Furniture that can be sanitized
6310	495	8630	2,046.00	Laptops for office staff in preparation of remote work

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

We have already begun the process of providing services and assistance for our students and staff. Materials and supplies have been ordered, plans put into place and on-going collaboration and communication with stakeholders. May 2020 and ending by September 30, 2022.

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

We have surveyed our parents on their technological needs, i.e. devices, internet service, wifi, etc. Our plan during another school closure is to provide a device for every student that doesn't have access to one. We have also set up remote hotspots in our school parking lots to provide wifi for those who have poor or no internet service. We have also been working to get information out to families who are eligible for free internet through ADECA.

**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?**

There are no private schools located in the Lamar County School District boundaries.

**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?**

All students PreK through 5th grade in need of reading intervention will be afforded the same opportunity with the offering of Sunday System, which will include after school and summer tutoring. Policy 6.9 of the Lamar County Board of Education Policy Manual will be strictly adhered to. It states that "No student will be unlawfully excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the Board on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, national origin, sex, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, or homeless status. Any barriers that arise during the course of the program will be addressed on a case by case basis and dealt with swiftly.

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.

Wendy Morrison

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)

Wendy Morrison

LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Vance Herron

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

Vance Herron

LEA Superintendent Signature

205-695-7615 x3003

Telephone Number

09/24/2020

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

205-695-7615 x3001

Telephone Number

09/24/2020

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: 9/24/2020

Date ALSDE Approved: 10/6/2020

[Signature]  
State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

10/6/2020  
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: \_\_\_\_\_