



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	Alexander City Schools
Mailing Address	375 Lee Street
Physical Address	375 Lee Street
City/Town and Zip Code	Alexander City 35010
Superintendent's Name	Dr. Keith Lankford
Contact Person	Dr. Beverly Price
Contact Person Position	Deputy Superintendent
Contact Telephone Number	(256) 234-8875
Contact Email	bprice@aask12.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
<i>The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies that:</i> 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?
The LEA leadership team met and discussed the needs of the district and each school as a result of COVID-19. The team consisted of the superintendent, CSFO, deputy superintendent, directors, and principals. The team addressed safety, academics, technology, personnel, and remote learning needs. The LEA used data from various sources to include but not limited to: student assessment results, ADPH guidelines, ALSDE guidelines, etc...

How does the LEA intend to assess and address student learning gaps resulting from the disruption in educational services?
The LEA will use the IReady assessment suite for grades K-8 the reading and math gaps. We will administer the assessments during the first week of school. We will use Scantron Performance Series assessment in grades 9-12 to assess the gap for these students. We will use the assessment results to guide Tier I instruction and to inform Tier II and Tier III placement and instruction. We will offer supplemental intervention programs to those students identified as needing additional services. Special education teachers will use the results of these assessments to provide appropriate special education services.

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
<input checked="" 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.

CARES & ETF AVAILABLE FUNDS

CARES BUDGET (Amended)

Function	Object	Program	Amount	Brief Description
1100	319	1200	\$ 53,391.05	SPUR EMPLOYEES (ELEMENTARY)
1100	319	1500	\$ 10,440.00	SPUR EMPLOYEES (SECONDARY)
1100	010-250	1500	\$ 135,352.99	VIRTUAL SECONDARY TEACHERS SALAIRES & BENEFITS
1100	319	1810	\$ 5,220.00	SPUR EMPLOYEES (PHOENIX)
1100	319	2400	\$ 15,660.00	SPUR EMPLOYEES (SPEC ED)
1100	319	8100	\$ 389.40	SPUR EMPLOYEES
1100	361	8100	\$ 5,338.34	VIRTUAL SCHOOL PHONE SERVICE
1100	411	8100	\$ 5,914.61	STUDENT CLASSROOM SUPPLIES
1100	541	8100	\$29,990.61	VIRTUAL FURNITURE
1100	010-250	8100	\$281,214.11	VIRTUAL TEACHERS SALAIRES & BENEFITS
1100	101-250	8100	\$49,901.00	VIRTUAL TUTORS
2140	122-250	8210	\$ 23,895.10	SOCIAL WORKER SALARY & BENEFITS
2190	399	8210	\$ 832.21	CNP INSURANCE COVERAGE
2190	419	8210	\$ 57.98	OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES
2190	489	8210	\$23,289.45	VIRTUAL SCHOOL FURNITURE
2190	081-250/361	8210	\$155,148.26	VIRTUAL SCHOOL DIRECTOR
2190	191-250	8220	\$ 2,883.36	VIRTUAL TEACHING PLANNING
2290	482	8220	\$ 2,850.00	NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SOFTWARE
3200	499	8300	\$63,240.64	EM360 ELECTROSTATIC SPRAYER
4130	399	2900	\$6,124.80	SPUR EMPLOYEES (SPEC ED BUS AIDES)
6110	495	8600	\$ 5,374.95	NON-CAPITALIZED COMPUTERS
6510	471	8600	\$ 5,306.08	PPE SUPPLIES
9130	414	4300	\$ 8,316.20	SUMMER SCHOOL IREADY
9130	010-250	4300	\$26,885.86	SUMMER SCHOOL TEACHERS SALARIES/BENEFITS
9130	319	4800	\$ 6,900.00	SPUR EMPLOYEES (ATB)
			\$ 923,917.00	

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

The LEA began providing services and assistance to students and staff on March 13, 2020 and will continue through September 30, 2022.

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

The LEA is developing a virtual school for those students that will not be able to return to the brick and mortar school. We will also provide professional development to teachers and administrators to improve their ability to effectively provide lessons remotely. We will also provide wireless services to those that are not able to purchase wireless services.

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?

NA

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?

See attached.
B. Price

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.

Rhonda Blythe

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)

Rhonda A. Blythe

LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Dr. Keith Lankford

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

Keith Lankford

LEA Superintendent Signature

(256) 234-8610

Telephone Number

04/27/2021

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

(256) 234-6541

Telephone Number

4/27/21

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: 4/27/2021

Date ALSDE Approved: 5/7/2021

Orren
State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

05-07-2021
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released:

The LEA will use ESSER funds to increase the safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff. We will do this by utilizing non-discriminatory practices and procedures to identify and remove barriers that would impede access to and/or participation in said programs for all sub-groups, including gender, race, ethnicity, gender orientation and socio-economic status. The district will also provide professional development for all staff identified as having a weakness in this area. **The LEA will hire a social worker to help coordinate resources that will help to remove barriers to student success for all students.

BP

4/30/21