



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	Decatur City Board of Education
Mailing Address	302 4th Avenue
Physical Address	302 4th Avenue
City/Town and Zip Code	Decatur, AL 35601
Superintendent's Name	Dr. Michael Douglas
Contact Person	Mandi Jones
Contact Person Position	CSFO
Contact Telephone Number	256-552-0627
Contact Email	mandi.jones@dcs.edu

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?

Decatur City Schools developed a task force consisting of administrators and supervisors to determine the most important educational needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This task force met numerous times and outlined several areas that need immediate attention.

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

Decatur City Schools will administer a pre-assessment to students during the months of July and August 2020 to determine reading and math proficiency. We will provide targeted small group instruction to address academic deficits and to accelerate learning opportunities for students identified via the pre-assessment. DCS will follow the system-wide pacing guides which are in alignment with the state's academic content standards and administer common assessments to determine academic growth or areas in need of improvement. For any areas in need of improvement, instructional plans will be developed. Additionally, DCS will conduct data meetings (in person and/or virtually) to continue to monitor student achievement. In the summer of 2021 DCS will hold a 6 week summer school learning program. DCS will provide transportation for the summer learning program.

Decatur City Board of Education CARES Act ESSER Funds

FUND SOURCE CODE 4290

Function	Object	Program	Amount	Brief Description of Expenditure
1100	411	1200	\$1,711,027	Student devices for online learning
2210	362	8220	\$100,000	Internet connectivity devices for students (hotspots)
9200	411	4900	\$14,094	Private school instructional supplies
9200	441	4900	\$36,437	Private school custodial supplies
1100	10	4300	\$95,000	Summer Learning teacher pay
1100	101	4300	\$15,000	Summer Learning aide pay
1100	220	4300	\$12,551	Summer Learning retirement
1100	230	4300	\$6,820	Summer Learning social security
1100	240	4300	\$1,595	Summer Learning medicare
1100	250	4300	\$55	Summer Learning SUI
4188	161	4300	\$10,000	Summer Learning Bus Driver
4188	220	4300	\$1,236	Summer Learning Bus Driver retirement
4188	230	4300	\$619	Summer Learning Bus Driver social security
4188	240	4300	\$144	Summer Learning Bus Driver medicare
4188	250	4300	\$1	Summer Learning Bus Driver SUI
2210	192	8221	\$100,000	Virtual Curriculum Task Force Stipends (off contract)
2210	230	8221	\$6,200	Virtual Curriculum Task Force Stipends Soc. Sec.
2210	240	8221	\$1,450	Virtual Curriculum Task Force Stipends Medicare
2210	250	8221	\$30	Virtual Curriculum Task Force Stipends SUI
3200	343	8300	\$3,546	Air purifiers, water bottle fillers (DHCA)
3200	441	8300	\$100,381	Custodial supplies to sanitize and clean facilities
			\$2,216,186	

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

Decatur City Schools will be providing a Summer Learning academy in July 2020 in order to address academic gaps in reading and math. DCS will provide transportation for the Summer Learning academy. DCS has assembled a task force comprised of teachers from across the district. In June and July 2020 this task force will develop the virtual curriculum (which aligns with the pacing guides) that will be used for our virtual option and/or to be used in the event of a school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The members of this task force will be paid a minimal stipend. DCS plans on purchasing student devices (hardware and connectivity) by September 2020. Additionally DCS plans to purchase custodial supplies to sanitize and clean all of our facilities. The purchases will be made throughout the summer and all of the 2020-2021 school year. All services will conclude by September 30, 2022.

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

DCS has assembled a task force comprised of teachers from across the district. In June and July 2020 this task force will develop the virtual curriculum (which aligns with the pacing guides) that will be used for our virtual option and/or to be used in the event of a school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The members of this task force will be paid a minimal stipend. DCS plans to purchase student devices by September 2020 to ensure each student has a device to facilitate on line learning. Additionally, DCS will provide connectivity devices to any student who needs internet 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?**

Equitable service funds will be used by the private schools to plan and coordinate during long-term closures, including how to provide meals to eligible students, technology for online learning to all students, guidance for carrying out requirements under IDEA, and ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, state, and local requirements. Additionally, supplies to sanitize and clean facilities will be purchased. A timely and meaningful consultation will occur with private schools through a virtual meeting with private school leaders and the Decatur City Schools CSFO and Federal Programs Supervisor. All services and assistance will be implemented throughout the 2020-2021 school year. All funds will be spent by September 30, 2022. NOTE: The original ESSER I application equitable services amounts were calculated based on total students. This amendment has been amended to recalculate equitable services using the proportionally method. This changed the amounts to each of our private schools. It increased St. Ann's by \$3,852.51. However, it significantly decreased the amount for Decatur Heritage (decrease of \$46,994.13). This led to Decatur Heritage using 6,889.90 more than they should have been allocated. We have met with both schools and we have submitted amended equitable services implementation forms.

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?

Decatur City Schools is planning on providing each student in our district with a device to facilitate on-line learning. DCS will also provide a connectivity device to those students who need Internet access. DCS will provide instructional materials/supplies for all students, including English Learners, Migrant, Homeless, Foster Care, those with disabilities, low income, et. Additionally DCS will provide interventionists who will provide small group instruction in an effort to target skill regression due to school closure.

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.

Mandi Jones

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)

Mandi Jones

LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Dr. Michael Douglas

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

Michael Douglas

LEA Superintendent Signature

256-552-0627

Telephone Number

5.19.21

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

256-552-3000

Telephone Number

5.19.21

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: 4/30/2021

Date ALSDE Approved: 5/27/2021

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State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

05/27/2021

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____