



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	Morgan County Schools
Mailing Address	235 Highway 67 South
Physical Address	235 Highway 67 South
City/Town and Zip Code	Decatur, AL 35603
Superintendent's Name	Robert Elliott
Contact Person	Kellie Tanner
Contact Person Position	Federal Programs Director
Contact Telephone Number	2563092127
Contact Email	katanner@morgank12.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?

The district leadership team, the COVID-19 Task Force, and all MCS principals addressed issues that have occurred due to COVID-19. The leadership team, Task Force, and principals addressed activities and strategies that would support all MCS stakeholders as they move forward during the COVID-19 pandemic. The district leadership team also distributed surveys to stakeholders. The data from these surveys as well as discussions with the leadership team and Task Force indicated the following needs: student internet/WiFi access, student devices, personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, thermometers, disinfecting supplies, additional custodial staff, and professional development for teachers focused on remote learning strategies.

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

MCS provided a Summer Reading Program for all K-3 students needing reading intervention. Beginning-of-program data (DIBELS) was used to identify weaknesses. Students were grouped according to skill gaps. An end of program assessment (ISIP) was administered. This data will assist the upcoming teacher (2020 Fall) to guide individualized instruction. In the fall, students will take an beginning, middle, and end of year assessment (ISIP Reading and i-Ready Math) to identify where students are and targeted areas for differentiated instruction. ISIP and I-Ready instructional components, along with the assessment piece required by the AL Literacy Act, has been purchased by the MCS general fund to provide individual learning paths for all students.

CARES ACT ESSER FUNDS

BUDGET

FUNCTION	OBJECT	PROGRAM	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
1100	622	8100	165,303.50	Virtual School (Edmentum)
1100	083	8100	32,000.04	Virtual School Facilitator (Salary)
1100	230-250	8100	2,450.97	Virtual School Facilitator (Benefits)
2215	192	8220	32,450.00	PD Stipends (Schoology) - Off Contract Time
2215	220-240	8220	6,222.60	PD Stipends (Benefits) - Off Contract Time
2190	589	8210	77,280.00	CNP Sealant Machine
2190	479	8210	230,290.41	Sanitizing Supplies- sanitizer stands, backpack sprayers, thermometers, gloves, electrostatic sprayers
2140	489	8210	519,181.81	Health and safety materials (sneeze guards, isolation gowns, gloves, masks, face shields)
1100	411	8100	1,436.84	Instructional Supplies and Materials
1100	399	8100	42,494.40	100 Mifi devices for students
6210	399	8620	329.78	Zoom subscription for online meetings
3200	442	8320	150,940.88	Hand towels, Clorox, hand sanitizer, water bottle stations
1100	180	1200	1,120.00	Substitutes (Salaries)
1100	230-250	1200	85.77	Substitutes (Benefits)

TOTAL = 1,261,587.00

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

Morgan County Schools began providing services on March 13, 2020, and will continue providing services and assistance through September 30, 2022, as funding allows.

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

ESSER funds will be utilized to purchase online programs and/or instructional services, as well as internet connectivity devices for students to access during remote learning opportunities. Edmentum will be purchased to provide a Virtual Learning option for MCS students. An additional teacher will also be contracted to facilitate the virtual learning academy. Professional learning for teachers will be provided to familiarize teachers with Schoology.

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?

No private schools are housed within the Morgan County Schools district; therefore, this is not applicable.

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.

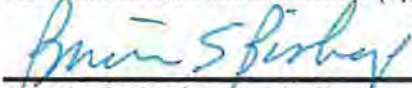
What steps does the LEA propose to take to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries to overcome barriers (including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age) that impede equal access to, or participation in, the program?

District and school surveys will be conducted with parents. Various forms of communication from the district, schools, and classroom teachers will take place with the students and parents. These will be utilized to identify and overcome potential barriers that would prohibit the success of student learning. MCS will accommodate any student that may have a barrier that prevents them from participating in their educational opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents will be allowed to choose the best learning model for their child during the COVID-19 pandemic. MCS will offer the following learning options: Traditional, Remote/Off-Campus, or Virtual. Blended learning will also occur when a student is quarantined or schools are closed.

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.

Brian Bishop

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)



LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Robert Elliott

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)



LEA Superintendent Signature

256-309-2100

Telephone Number

3/1/2022

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

256-309-2100

Telephone Number

3/1/22

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: 3/1/2022

Date ALSDE Approved: 3/9/2022



State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

3/9/22

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: