



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	Etowah County Schools
Mailing Address	3200 West Meighan Blvd
Physical Address	same as above
City/Town and Zip Code	Gadsden, 35904
Superintendent's Name	Dr. Alan Cosby
Contact Person	Susan Bishop
Contact Person Position	CSFO
Contact Telephone Number	256-549-7560
Contact Email	Susan_Bishop@ecboe.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?

LEA conducted a Needs Assessment Survey with all administrators. Schools evaluated their ACIP critical initiatives to determine the impact of COVID-19 on learning and the social emotional welfare of their students. The Needs Assessment Survey found lack of devices was a need during the COVID-19 shutdown. Without devices and internet connectivity, schools had to rely on paper packets for a large number of their students. Students need to be able to connect with their teachers and classmates for learning and social needs. PPE and cleaning supplies for classroom and buses is an anticipated need for the start of the 2020 school year. Intensive remediation for students will also be a need at the beginning of the 2020 school year.

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

Teacher and administrators will meet as vertical and horizontal teams to determine the standards and skills not met the previous school year due to COVID-19. Students will be universally screened at the beginning of the school year to determine the effects of COVID-19 and lesson plans including remediation will be adjusted as needed.

Provide a detail 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	495	1200	325,895	Chromebooks for Elementary Students; 1 to 1
1100	495	1200	58,950	168 Chromebooks & Cases
1100	495	1500	58,950	168 Chromebooks & Cases
1100	495	1200	83,367	Interactive Panels for Elementary Schools
1100	495	1500	83,367	Interactive Panels for Middle & High Schools
1100	411	8100	2,000	500 sets of Headphones for Chromebooks
1100	411	1200	11,775	2,355 Mouses for Chromebooks
1100	411	1500	8,307	1,545 Mouses for Chromebooks
1100	333	8100	49,665	Google Chrome Management
1100	369	1500	164,902	Wi-Fi Access for Students
1100	369	1200	112,076	Wi-Fi Access for Students
2140	489	8210	40,208	Desk Dividers
2140	489	8210	54,946	PPE Gear - Masks, Gloves, Thermometers
2140	489	8210	1,624	Lab Coats for Nurses
2140	489	8210	16,627	COVID and Social Distancing Signage
3200	449	8320	424,790	Air Purifiers in Classrooms
1100	364	8100	654	Postage to mail packets to students
3200	441	8320	293,034	Disinfectant Supplies; Foggers; Paper Towel Dispensers, etc., Hand Sanitizer
2190	489	8210	4,948	Social Distancing and Cleaning Supplies for Graduation
4150	391	8410	1,266	Additional Extra Curricular Buses due to Social Distancing
2215	382	8220	10,500	Schoology Professional Development
6420	139	8640	66,665	Technology Support Technician - Salary
6420	210	8640	20,800	Technology Support Technician - Insurance
6420	220	8640	7,517	Technology Support Technician - Retirement
6420	230	8640	4,100	Technology Support Technician - FICA
6420	240	8640	959	Technology Support Technician - Medicare
6420	250	8640	27	Technology Support Technician - Unemployment Comp.

1,907,919

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

Technology purchases - March 2020 - September 2022
Cleaning Supplies - March 2020 - September 2022
Remediation Services - March 2020 - September 2022,
Technology Support - August 2020 - September 2022, devices and MiFi's will have operating systems that will be managed by tech support at the central office.

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

Technology - Access Points, devices - 4000 Managed Chromebooks and MiFi's - this will make us 1:1 system-wide
Student Packets - will be given to students in areas without internet coverage. This will be used as a last resort.
Virtual Learning Programs - Platforms will be purchased and PD given to support teachers and students. The platform will be determined after the ALSDE gives further guidance.
Blended instruction - for students who opt for virtual learning but might want to participate in career tech, band, etc.
Remediation - will be determined by universal screeners given in August to all students. Students will be remediated, if needed, to meet learning and standards lost in the spring. Remediation will be in various forms, during the day and after school.

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 private school was contacted to provide timely and meaningful consultation. The Intent to Participate was sent via email to the private school administrator. Communication between the Federal Programs Director and private school administrator has been documented by email. The private school declined to participate with the LEA.

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?

Etowah County Schools will insure there are no barriers to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries from participation. If barriers were to arise, we will work collaboratively with students and parents to ensure they are handled appropriately.

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.

Susan Bishop
LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)

Susan Bishop
LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Alan Cosby
LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

Alan Cosby
LEA Superintendent Signature

256-549-7593
Telephone Number

3/1/22
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

256 549-7578
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

Alan Cosby
State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

3/9/22
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____