



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	Clarke County
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 936
Physical Address	155 West Cobb Street
City/Town and Zip Code	Grove Hill, AL 36451
Superintendent's Name	Larry Bagley
Contact Person	Carmen Rotch
Contact Person Position	Chief Financial Officer
Contact Telephone Number	(251) 250-2155
Contact Email	carmen_rotch@hotmail.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?

The Superintendent of Education has had numerous meetings with district staff, principals, parents, and community members to determine the needs at each school. The principals also held discussions and sought input from their teachers and parents. Additionally, surveys were placed on the school and district websites to help determine the needs of the students and the parents of our school system. Findings included the following needs: Additional cleaning equipment, cleaning supplies, additional and updated computers especially needed for remote learning, little or no home internet access for many of our students, and other various educational needs.

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

At the beginning of school, students will be given a formative assessment to help determine the students level of content mastery. Also, grade level meetings will occur prior to the beginning of school so that teacher of students of one grade will share with teachers of the next grade where their instruction ended and what critical standards, if any, were left untaught. Those determined gaps of instruction will be taught first and tested so that teachers can help ensure that the student's weaknesses may be determined and addressed. This process will continue throughout the year to "catch up" the students. Students who have large learning gaps will receive individual attention and instruction so that can reach grade level achievement status and will not be behind in their learning.

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 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 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 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 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.

Provide a detailed 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	411	1200	\$11,670.21	Instructional Supplies
1100	411	1500	\$34,164.14	Instructional Supplies
1100	495	1200	\$373,627.89	Computer Equipment
1100	495	1500	\$238,798.52	Computer Equipment
2140	489	8210	\$36,748.89	Non-instructional supplies, PPE
3200	347	8320	\$190,285.94	Sanitation Supplies & Services
3200	589	8320	\$26,876.00	Cleaning Machines
9200	411	4900	\$32,732.35	Non-public school Instructional Supplies
9200	495	4900	\$95,010.27	Non-public school Computer Equipment
9200	347	4900	\$78,703.00	Non-public school Sanitation Services
6910	910	8690	\$17,439.69	Indirect Cost

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

The Clarke County school system entered into a contract with Cintas to clean and sanitize each of our seven schools on a rotational basis. They will also clean all the school cafeterias and all the buses. Additionally, they will provide cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer and stands, soap, paper towels, etc. to each school. Janitors at each school will also use Cintas products that have been approved by the CDC to kill the COVID virus. During the week of July 20, 2020, initial cleanings will be completed at each school, all school cafeterias, and all school buses. Hand sanitizer stations are being installed as well as soap dispensers in all restrooms. Cleaning solutions are being delivered during this time. Computers (Chromebooks) were ordered July 13, 2020 and should be delivered prior to September 1, 2020. Face masks were ordered for the transportation department. A cleaning machine was ordered for each school that uses a misting solution to clean each classroom as needed.

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

One of the greatest needs in the Clarke County school system was the need for more computers or learning devices for our students. We are not a "one device to one student" school system. Therefore, it was imperative to purchase enough computers for students to be able to learn remotely from their home if needed. The system is also heavily involved in training district personnel and teachers in Schoology which is provided free of charge from Alabama State Department of Education. Also, students that have chosen traditional school instead of virtual school will have deeper daily instruction in computer skills and will be assigned curriculum lessons taught in a digital format so that students will have the necessary skills to learn remotely if needed.

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?

Clarke County has two private schools. Jackson Academy is located in Jackson, AL and Clarke Prep School is located in Grove Hill, AL. When the CARES Act fund information became available, Gwen Powell, Federal Programs Director in Clarke County called and spoke with the headmaster at each school relaying the information to them. She then followed up with an email with the attachment containing all the information. A meeting was scheduled with each school and the information was discussed in detail. Each school represented had a Needs Assessment in which they had listed items they needed to make remote learning a possibility for their school. While the computers and other technology equipment have been ordered for Jackson Academy, Clarke Prep School had a change in leadership and delayed the process. Therefore, all of their computers and other equipment will be ordered by July 23, 2020. The cleaning contracts will begin immediately and run through the year.

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.

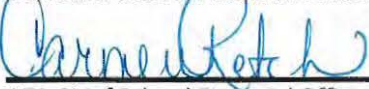
What steps does the LEA propose to take to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries to overcome barriers (including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age) that impede equal access to, or participation in, the program?

To adequately determine any barriers that may exist for students, parents, teachers and others, the superintendent asked everyone to complete online surveys to determine the amount of interest in virtual or remote learning, the internet usage capacity at each student's home, and to determine other barriers that may exist that would prevent student learning and teaching. All students will have equal access to all resources provided by the Clarke County Board of Education. Students that do not have technology devices at home will be provided devices. They will also have access to instructional support provided by our teachers in the Clarke County system. Because we are a very rural area and many of our students do not have access to internet use, the system is looking for ways to best serve each home on an individual basis.

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.

Carmen Rotch

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)



LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Larry Bagley

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)



LEA Superintendent Signature

(251) 250-2155

Telephone Number

03/01/2022

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

(251) 250-2155

Telephone Number

03/01/2022

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

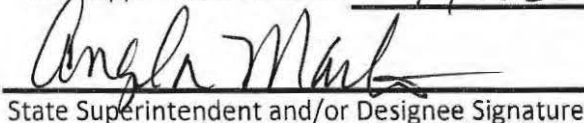
Send completed application to CARESapp@alsde.edu.

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: 3/10/2022



State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

3/10/22
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____