



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	Pell City School System
Mailing Address	3105 15th Avenue North
Physical Address	
City/Town and Zip Code	Pell City, AL 35125
Superintendent's Name	James Martin III, Ed.D.
Contact Person	Kristin Harrell
Contact Person Position	School Improvement and Federal Programs Director
Contact Telephone Number	(205) 884-4440
Contact Email	kristin.harrell@pellcityschools.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

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?

During June 2020, PCSS administered a system-wide survey. This survey provided information about the number and identity of students who wish to participate in virtual learning during the 2020-2021 school year. Approximately 30% responded that they were interested in a virtual option. Based on answers received thusfar our plan is to expand the number of available devices and internet connectivity, reassess staffing to meet the needs of virtual learners, train teachers on providing high-quality virtual instruction, and make sure structures are in place to support hardware, software and instructional needs whether students are receiving face-to-face or virtual instruction.

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

Whether we are serving students virtually or face-to-face, PCSS is committed to administering screening assessments to all students upon return to school and periodically throughout the school year. These assessments will help us identify students who are functioning below grade level while identifying specific skill areas for remediation. The assessments we use include, Star Early Literacy, Star Reading, Star Math and Global Scholar Reading and Math. Screening data will be used to target students for remediation within and outside of the school day. Within the school day, schools will provide an intervention period/component. After school tutoring will be provided to further address identified learning gaps.

Amendment 5/10/21- Provide summer learning programs for at-risk students. Staff salaries, materials, and supplies will be purchased for the programs.

Pell City School System

Cares Act Budget

Fund Source Code: 4290

Must be spent by September 30, 2022

Total Allocation \$731,573Pell City Schools portion: **\$707,527.27**Private Schools portion: **\$24,045.73**

Function	Object	Program	BUDGET	Brief Description of Expenditure
1100	414	1200	\$26,305.00	Purchasing education software for elementary students
1100	414	1500	\$15,638.06	Purchasing education software for secondary students
2190	339	8210	\$16,864.00	SchoolBlocks Website (3 year) enhancement for family communication, contract technology services
2190	364	8210	\$5,065.65	Postage and supplies for mailing lessons and progress reports
3200	171	8320	\$91,828.07	5 Custodians - Salaries
3200	210	8320	\$44,000.00	5 Custodians - Benefits Insurance
3200	220	8320	\$10,469.62	5 Custodians - Benefits Retirement
3200	230	8320	\$5,384.68	5 Custodians - Benefits Social Security
3200	240	8320	\$1,259.31	5 Custodians - Benefits Medicare
1100	411	1200	\$39,374.06	Purchasing educational materials/supplies for K-6 students
1100	411	1500	\$8,588.62	Purchasing educational materials/supplies for 7-12 students
1100	010	1200	\$25,792.47	Virtual teacher for Williams Intermediate - Salary
1100	210	1200	\$7,200.00	Virtual teacher for Williams Intermediate - Benefits Insurance
1100	220	1200	\$2,893.95	Virtual teacher for Williams Intermediate - Benefits Retirement
1100	230	1200	\$1,599.12	Virtual teacher for Williams Intermediate - Benefits Social Security
1100	240	1200	\$373.95	Virtual teacher for Williams Intermediate - Benefits Medicare
1100	411	2900	\$108.48	Purchasing education materials/supplies for special needs population
2190	139	8210	\$33,248.97	Hardware Technician - Salary
2190	210	8210	\$7,200.00	Hardware Technician - Benefits Insurance
2190	220	8210	\$3,730.50	Hardware Technician - Benefits Retirement
2190	230	8210	\$1,683.17	Hardware Technician - Benefits Social Security
2190	240	8210	\$393.61	Hardware Technician - Benefits Medicare
2190	494	8210	\$4,860.50	Portable radios for schools to communicate with buses to promote social distancing during dismissal
6490	333	8640	\$674.72	Adobe Pro license for Administration
2190	333	8210	\$12,675.00	Gaggle safety management for Google email - students
2215	495	8220	\$6,642.00	Interactive panels for boardroom for teacher training

2140	489	8210	\$51,976.59	Health services non-instructional supplies (PPE, hand sanitizer, etc.)
2140	493	8210	\$3,899.00	Disinfecting backpack sprayers
2190	489	8210	\$1,761.16	Supplies for social distancing students (2 -way radios, seating, outdoor canopies, dividers)
2220	492	8220	\$697.23	Rolling cart for social distancing during library book check-out by students
2220	495	8220	\$269.00	Ipad for library book checkout for rolling cart book check-out system
2310	364	8230	\$1,286.30	Postage for parent mailouts
3200	347	8320	\$6,347.22	Contract janitorial services
3200	441	8320	\$68,212.27	Janitorial supplies for sanitation of buildings
3200	349	8320	\$10,340.19	Contract services for installing plexiglass partitions in front offices of schools and CO
2310	032	8230	\$4,824.75	Adminstrator for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Salary
2310	220	8230	\$596.34	Adminstrator for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Benefits Retirement
2310	230	8230	\$288.97	Adminstrator for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Benefits Social Security
2310	240	8230	\$67.58	Adminstrator for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Benefits Medicare
2220	072	8230	\$3,238.89	Librarian for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Salary
2220	220	8230	\$388.41	Librarian for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Benefits Retirement
2220	230	8230	\$198.77	Librarian for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Benefits Social Security
2220	240	8230	\$46.48	Librarian for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Benefits Medicare
2310	141	8230	\$4,101.04	Secretaries for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Salary
2310	220	8230	\$506.89	Secretaries for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Benefits Retirement
2310	230	8230	\$237.36	Secretaries for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Benefits Social Security
2310	240	8230	\$55.51	Secretaries for summer Bridge Program (off contract time) - Benefits Medicare
1100	010	1200	\$15,798.47	Summer program teachers (off contract time) - Salaries
1100	220	1200	\$1,578.10	Summer program teachers (off contract time) - Benefits Retirement
1100	230	1200	\$957.11	Summer program teachers (off contract time) - Benefits Social Security
1100	240	1200	\$223.84	Summer program teachers (off contract time) - Benefits Medicare
1100	010	1500	\$22,546.13	Tutoring & Summer program teachers (off contract time) - Salaries
1100	220	1500	\$2,744.61	Tutoring & Summer program teachers (off contract time) - Benefits Retirement
1100	230	1500	\$1,374.98	Tutoring & Summer program teachers (off contract time) - Benefits Social Security
1100	240	1500	\$321.58	Tutoring & Summer program teachers (off contract time) - Benefits Medicare
1100	010	4300	\$16,832.35	Summer school teachers (off contract time) Salaries
1100	220	4300	\$2,030.42	Summer school teachers (off contract time) Benefits Retirement
1100	230	4300	\$1,035.26	Summer school teachers (off contract time) Benefits Social Security
1100	240	4300	\$242.12	Summer school teachers (off contract time) Benefits Medicare
2215	312	8220	\$12,393.60	Live virtual training and on-demand training for CharacterStrong program/software
1100	495	1200	\$3,459.70	Educational technology elementary
1100	495	1500	\$58,635.70	Educational technology secondary

1100	495	8100	\$34,159.84	Educational technology
9200	495	4900	\$8,164.30	Participating private school - educational technology
9200	441	4900	\$102.19	Participating private school - sanitation supplies
9200	339	4900	\$11,383.77	Participating private school - education technology
9200	333	4900	\$1,253.97	Participating private school - software license & maintenance agreements
9200	494	4900	\$3,141.50	Participating private school - projectors
TOTAL			\$731,573.00	

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

Based on our objective of providing a safe school environment in combination with high quality instruction, ESSER funding will be needed immediately for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Services will likely last through 9/30/22 (Amendment 3/4/22) as we cannot predict the end of pandemic safeguards. We are also committed to continuing intervention and after school tutoring through 9/30/22 (Amendment 3/4/22), if academic needs persist.

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

As 30% of our student population wish to participate in virtual learning this year, we will need to purchase additional student and teacher Chromebooks and laptops for remote learning. Some Chromebook replacement/re refurbishing is needed from usage in the spring of 2020. Teachers will also require significant professional development to best structure remote learning and learn how to use a variety of instructional software products. Finally, some families will require assistance with internet access. We would like to use a portion of funding to assist families in securing connectivity.

4/21/21 Amendment-In order to address the increase in virtual instruction this year, an additional virtual teacher is needed to meet the individual needs of our students. A hardware technician was also needed in the technology department. Based on the increase in device purchases and usage, a hardware technician is needed to keep up with the maintenance of the devices. Based on survey results, a SEL curriculum is needed to address the social/emotional/behavioral needs of our students. Professional development will also be needed to implement the SEL curriculum to fidelity.

3/4/22 Amendment-Provide an internet safety management system for students.

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?

There are two private schools in our community, Victory Christian and Bible Methodist. Contact was made via email with both regarding their intent to participate. A follow-up phone call was also made to explain how ESSER funds could be used. One school, Victory Christian, returned the Intent to Participate form indicating that they would like to take part. The other school declined participation. A meeting with the participating school is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30th. The Equitable Services Implementation Form will be completed at this meeting. As soon as this application is approved, we will begin to work with our local private school to provide resources.

4/21/21 Currently, there is only one private school in our community-Victory Christian School. Our initial calculations in June 2020 were based on total enrollment. The ALSDE provided additional allocations in January 2021. Since this occurred after the new regulations were put into place, the new method for determining poverty was proportionally. Based on the proportionality calculations, the private school had encumbered services that surpassed the new allocation. Therefore, no additional funds will be provided.

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?

Every effort will be made to insure that at-risk, vulnerable, or underrepresented populations benefit from ESSER funds and services provided. Students who are economically disadvantaged, or who may face other barriers will be provided targeted access to services. High levels of communication with at-risk population sectors will be a priority. PCSS is committed to providing communication in a student's native language.

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.

Tanya Holcombe

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)

205-884-4440

Telephone Number

Tanya Holcombe

LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

3/4/2022

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

James Martin III

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

205-884-4440

Telephone Number

[Signature]

LEA Superintendent Signature

3/4/2022

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: 3/7/2022

Date ALSDE Approved: 3/17/2022

[Signature]

State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

3/17/22

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____