



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	Elmore County
Mailing Address	P. O. Box 817
Physical Address	100 H. H. Robison Drive
City/Town and Zip Code	Wetumpka, AL 36092
Superintendent's Name	Richard E. Dennis
Contact Person	Jason Mann
Contact Person Position	Chief School Financial Officer
Contact Telephone Number	(334) 567-1200
Contact Email	jason.mann@elmoreco.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?

Our educational needs became apparent during the school closure (March-May, 2020) as a result of COVID-19. Our immediate need is for additional student devices to include Chromebooks and MiFi hotspots to provide internet connectivity for students who do not have it at home. Educational software and professional development (Edgenuity, Edulastic, etc.) are needed to support virtual instruction and increase academic achievement. Expenditures for school cleaning and sanitation supplies will provide the additional supplies needed for more frequent cleaning and disinfection of all schools and offices (beginning 2020-2021 school year). Student classroom supplies will be purchased for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

Elmore County intends to assess and address student learning gaps resulting from the disruption of educational services in a variety of ways. Students will be pre-assessed when they return or prior to the start of school utilizing a variety of assessments. These pre-assessments will be done using a combination of assessments depending upon the grade levels of students. Based upon the data from the pre-assessments, students will be placed into intervention groups to meet the needs or address the gaps in student learning. Additional support will be given to those students and may include before and/or after school tutoring, extended year tutoring, and/or targeted intervention during the school day. Schools will also conduct program audits on the intervention and enrichment programs they currently have in their buildings to ensure they have the right resources to address student needs. Schools will develop individual learning plans to differentiate instruction for students. Virtual programs will be utilized to help progress monitor student growth. The intervention groups will be fluid and based upon the skills that students need to close their learning gaps. Progress monitoring will occur at regular intervals to ensure that students are making appropriate growth towards their learning targets. Finally, school teams will meet utilizing the RtI process/framework to keep students/parents updated on progress.

Elmore County

4290 ESSER I Budget Update

Function	Object	Program	Amount	Description
1100	180	8100	9,412.50	Salary for subs
1100	199	8100	2,212.50	Supplements for Odysseyware standards alignment (off contracted time)
1100	230-250	8100	1,150.14	Benefits for subs
1100	333	8100	426,867.36	Software agreements: Edgenuity, Edulastic, Renaissance
1100	411	1100	22,914.19	Kindergarten seating for social distancing purposes
1100	411	1500	90,593.45	Elementary/middle classroom supplies
1100	495	1500	9,020.40	Elementary/middle classroom technology
2140	489	8220	28,317.50	Nursing PPE
3200	399	8320	251,219.46	Cleaning services
6420	495	8600	989,800.00	Computer hardware: Chromebooks, Mifi hotspots, charging carts
6420	472	8600	72,855.00	Technology supplies (device covers, tracking services)
7200	541	9100	91,763.06	Touchless water fountains/hydration stations for schools
9200	441	4900	4,606.44	Equitable services - cleaning and sanitation supplies
			2,000,732.00	TOTAL

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

Elmore County is prepared to begin providing services and assistance to students and staff immediately upon approval of our application. All funds will be expended by 9/30/2022. Technology devices, student supplies, and cleaning/sanitation supplies will be available at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, pending availability from vendors. Edgenuity software is a renewal with additional PD to equip teachers for the potential of increased virtual learning time for students. Edulastic is a new implementation to begin this school year.

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

Elmore County will purchase additional Chromebooks and MiFi hotspots to enable all our students to have the tools they need to participate in remote learning. Additional Chromebooks will help us reach our goal of 1-to-1 on student devices, and MiFi hotspots will be distributed to students who do not have access to high-speed Internet in their homes. The Edgenuity software suite (to include Odysseyware for grades K-5) will provide a district-wide platform for instruction across all schools and grade levels, thus allowing for more effective planning and implementation and ultimately greater standards mastery 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?

Consultation with our one participating private school has occurred. Allowable uses of funds as well as a time line and plan for expenditure of funds was discussed. They stated they wish to use their allocation for cleaning and sanitation supplies. No funds will be transferred to the private school. Consultation will continue throughout the implementation and assessment of services. All funds must be expended by 9/30/2021. **Follow-up consultation was held in April informing them of availability of additional funds, which they accepted.

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 educational 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?

Equal access will be provided to all students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries in Elmore County. Opportunities will be given to all involved to participate in any project or activity while promoting high standards and providing the necessary resources. If a barrier is discovered, it will be immediately addressed by district staff and removed to ensure full participation in the program. (Examples: Language barriers will be addressed through translation services, quality programs, etc. Technology barriers will be addressed by providing a device and/or internet capability, and training will be provided for staff to most effectively deliver, monitor, and assess instruction.)

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.

Jason Mann

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)



LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Richard E. Dennis

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)



LEA Superintendent Signature

(334) 567-1200

Telephone Number

03/15/2022

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

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Telephone Number

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Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

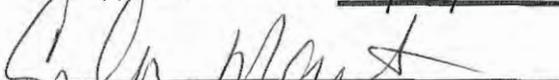
Send completed application to CARESapp@alsde.edu.

Upon approval of the application, funds will be released to the LEA.

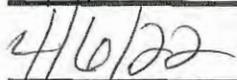
ALSDE Internal Use Only

Date Application Received: 3/15/2022

Date ALSDE Approved: 4/6/2022



State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature



Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____