



**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	Jefferson County School System
Mailing Address	2100 18th Street South
Physical Address	2100 18th Street South
City/Town and Zip Code	Birmingham, AL 35209
Superintendent's Name	Walter B. Gonsoulin Jr., Ph.D.
Contact Person	Janet P. Hagood
Contact Person Position	Director of Federal Programs
Contact Telephone Number	(205) 379-2152
Contact Email	jhagood@jefcoed.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?**

Jefferson County will determine the most important educational needs as a result of COVID-19 based on a comprehensive needs assessment. The district will convene a committee to examine all practices which have occurred since March 13, 2020. The committee will be comprised of the Superintendent, CSFO, Deputy Supt. of Operations, Deputy Supt. of Teaching & Learning, Technology & Data Director, Federal Programs Director and Assistant Director, and Director of Intervention & Student Support. Practices will be analyzed for effectiveness, resulting in a comprehensive assessment of district needs as related to COVID-19. The committee will analyze and prioritize needs based on several data sources including, but not limited to, surveys, inventories, research, and operating practices. Barriers to learning and operations will be addressed through the use of ESSER funds. Jefferson County determined four key areas of need: technology, cleaning, mental health, and operations. The greatest need centers around technology and encompasses several areas. The areas include providing devices to achieve a one-to-one initiative, providing internet accessibility and appropriate filters, maintaining a current inventory through the use of a management system, providing access to students and staff to digital textbooks and learning portal, and providing teachers and administrators insight into student performance based on specific standards in order to review performance and differentiate instruction. The next need deals with the cleaning of all facilities and having adequate cleaning supplies on hand. All 57 school sites, along with the Central Office Building and the district's maintenance and transportation facilities were deep cleaned in March as the district anticipated the reopening of school in April. The cleaning includes the current fogging of facilities, as needed throughout summer 2020. The deep cleaning contract is based on the recommendations of several agencies including the CDC, ALSDE, and the Jefferson County Health Officer. In addition, the LEA realizes that additional cleaning supplies will be needed at all sites in order to protect all stakeholders. The third need which surfaced during the assessment is the need for mental health services. According to a review of current research, it is evident that students are experiencing issues such as isolation, anxiety, depression, and other factors that will have a negative impact on the mental health of students. Many students do not have access to adequate mental health resources and services. The final area of need the committee synthesized is how to maintain operation of and continuity of services at the LEA as related to employees. The LEA plans on needing an increased number of substitutes due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Jefferson County and the possibility of a second wave of the virus. This will cause an increase in teacher absence, especially when considering a fourteen day quarantine period. (Specific data is available for review at the district for each of the determined prioritized needs.)

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

Jefferson 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 in order to meet the needs or address the gaps in student learning. Additional support will be given to those students which 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 in order 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 in order 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 (progress reports etc.).

**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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/>	Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
<input 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	495	8100	\$4,008,084.36	Purchase 17,000+ Chromebooks for grades 6-12
1100	362	8100	\$216,997.43	Hot Spots and Cradlepoints for wifi
6420	333	8800	\$93,500.00	Filter/Firewall/Digital Safety/Asset management tracking program for Chromebooks
2210	333	8220	\$199,748.88	ClassLink & PowerSchool Analytics
1100	333	8100	\$500,000.00	Virtual School Platform
3200	390	8300	\$818,553.25	Deep cleaning of school from Alabama Restoration
3200	441	8300	\$106,393.20	Cleaning Supplies/Masks/Hand Sanitizer
1100	335	8100	\$151,015.71	Substitutes
1100	411	8100	\$801,471.67	Device Covers
1100	390	8100	\$78,892.50	Cleaning Devices



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

The proposed timeline for providing services and assistance to students and staff is June 2020 - March 2022.

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

The use of digital devices purchased through the use of ESSER funds will be provided to students in a 1:1 initiative so that each student in grades 6-12 will be able to take a device home for remote learning. The purchase of hotspots and Cradlepoint devices will ensure equity for all students to have equity for access to the Internet to use these devices for remote learning. Funds will be used to purchase ClassLink, which will provide a single sign on access for remote learning sites and activities so that students can easily access content designed specifically for them by teachers for given courses. Content filtering purchased to allow off campus monitoring and digital safety will provide students with the option to participate in remote learning in a digital environment that is safe regardless of whether they are on or off campus networks for connection. BookTracks inventory systems will allow district leaders to track and manage devices to ensure all students in grades 6-12 have access to remote learning while at home. PowerSchool Analytics will allow educators to see real time data regarding students' progress whether they are learning at home or at school in order to inform changes to instruction or improvements for intervention.

**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?**

Equitable service funds will be used by the private schools in accordance with ESSER guidelines. Each private school within the attendance zone will receive correspondence from the LEA via mail, email, phone call, and/or visit. The private school(s) wishing to participate in the program will have the opportunity to timely and meaningful consultation with JefCoEd through the Federal Programs staff where prioritized needs will be determined based on a comprehensive needs assessment.

The proposed timeline is as follows:

May 26, 2020 - letters mailed to private schools via certified mail to determine interest in participating

June 2020 - hold consultation with interested private school(s) to determine needs and plan for specific services

June-August 2020 - begin services and provide support to the participating school(s)

JefCoEd will maintain title to materials and equipment purchased with ESSER funds.

\*JefCoEd did not have any private schools wish to participate in ESSER funds.

**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?**

Equal access will be provided to all students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries in Jefferson 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 Barrier - addressed through translation services, quality programs, etc.)

Technology Barrier - addressed through providing a device and/or internet capability & training will be provided for staff to most effectively deliver 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.

**Laura Nance**

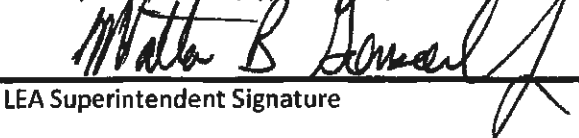
LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)



LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

**Walter B. Gonsoulin Jr., Ph.D.**

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)



LEA Superintendent Signature

**(205) 379-2001**

Telephone Number

**3/11/22**

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

**(205) 379-2225**

Telephone Number

**3/11/22**

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: **3/11/2022**

Date ALSDE Approved: **3/31/2022**



State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

**3/31/22**

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: \_\_\_\_\_