



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	Pickens County Schools
Mailing Address	377 Ladow Center Circle
Physical Address	377 Ladow Center Circle
City/Town and Zip Code	Carrollton 35447
Superintendent's Name	Jamie Chapman
Contact Person	Vanessa D Anthony
Contact Person Position	Associate Superintendent
Contact Telephone Number	(205) 367-2086
Contact Email	anthonyv@pickens.k12.al.us

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 LEA will determine educational needs by surveying parents and staff as well as assessing every kindergarten through twelfth grade student in the areas of reading and math. Identified needs will be addressed by providing the necessary supports such as hot spots for Internet access and Chromebooks for completing virtual learning assignments.

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

All students will be assessed to identify learning gaps during the the first two weeks of school. After all students have been assessed, they will be grouped according to their performance. Students needing intervention, will be placed with the most qualified teachers who have, based on data, proven effective in closing achievement gaps.

Provide a detailed budget to explain how ESSER funds will be used in your LEA.

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**PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
CARES ACT FUND
SFUND 4290**

3/30/2022

FUNCTION	OBJ	PROGRAM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
1100	101	1200	INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE	\$ 108,126.12
1100	101	1500	INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE	92,000.54
1100	101	3800	INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE	17,127.48
1100	199	1500	INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE	10,150.00
1100	210	1200	STATE INSURANCE	63,200.00
1100	210	1500	STATE INSURANCE	53,386.67
1100	210	3800	STATE INSURANCE	10,400.00
1100	220	1200	RETIREMENT	12,632.36
1100	220	1500	RETIREMENT	10,368.47
1100	220	3800	RETIREMENT	1,926.36
1100	230	1200	SOCIAL SECURITY	6,519.82
1100	230	1500	SOCIAL SECURITY	6,963.27
1100	230	3800	SOCIAL SECURITY	703.19
1100	240	1200	MEDICARE	1,524.84
1100	240	1500	MEDICARE	1,628.79
1100	240	3800	MEDICARE	164.51
1100	250	1200	SUI	147.01
1100	250	1500	SUI	166.75
1100	250	3800	SUI	17.83
1100	329	1500	SUB FOR AIDES	90.60
1100	411	8100	INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	17,249.68
1100	495	8100	COMPUTER HARDWARE	179,562.45
2140	419	8210	NURSING SUPPLIES	90,897.91
3200	171	1200	JANITOR - ELEMEN	69,998.03
3200	171	1500	JANITOR - HIGH	57,096.68
3200	171	3800	JANITOR - VOCATIONAL	16,802.64
3200	171	8300	JANITOR - OTHER	21,132.99
3200	210	1200	STATE INSURANCE	20,800.00
3200	210	1500	STATE INSURANCE	6,912.00
3200	220	1200	RETIREMENT	1,139.00
3200	220	1500	RETIREMENT	4,731.68
3200	230	1200	SOCIAL SECURITY	4,263.33
3200	230	1500	SOCIAL SECURITY	3,155.69
3200	230	3800	SOCIAL SECURITY	1,041.96
3200	230	8300	SOCIAL SECURITY	1,310.26
3200	240	1200	MEDICARE	999.23
3200	240	1500	MEDICARE	738.32
3200	240	3800	MEDICARE	243.83
3200	240	8300	MEDICARE	306.68
3200	250	1200	SUI	102.52
3200	250	1500	SUI	79.52
3200	250	3800	SUI	23.92
3200	250	8300	SUI	27.98
3900	411	8300	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	31,550.89
9200	381	4900	MILEAGE FOR EQUITABLE SERVICES	481.60
9200	471	4900	OFFICE SUPPLIES	481.60
9200	419	4900	NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	1,276.00
9200	441	4900	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	15,357.00
9200	495	4900	NON-CAP COMPUTER HARDWARE	0.00
			TOTAL	945,008.00

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

Staff members will participate in professional development sessions utilizing Schoology and Schools PLP as well as training on the use of the Chromebooks beginning July 30, 2020. In addition, staff will participate in health and safety procedures and protocol training. Virtual learning K-8 students will be assessed August 20, 21, 24, and/or 25, 2020. They will also receive Schoology and Schools PLP utilization training on these days. Traditional/blended learning students will be assessed and trained beginning August 26, 2020 when they return to school. These funds will be used through September 30, 2022.

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

The LEA will use ESSER funds to purchase Chromebooks to implement a One-to-one initiative. Each student will be assigned a Chromebook that will allow them to complete assignments. Parents will be surveyed to determine the level of Internet access in the home. These funds were also used to purchase instructional supplies.

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?

Pickens Academy will use the funds for purchased services to sanitize the building, purchase personal protection equipment, and to purchase custodial supplies. The LEA federal programs administrator and the headmaster of the private school met on June 18, 2020 to discuss services. Services began on July 31, 2020. All services will conclude by September 30, 2022

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 student will have access to an electronic device for virtual learning opportunities regardless of gender, race, color, national origin, disability, or age. All teachers and paraprofessionals will participate in professional development that will assist them in providing blended and virtual learning for students. The various professional development opportunities will focus on iStations, Stride Academy, Edgenuity, Schoology, Schools PLP, and Google Meet.

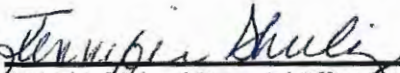
To the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information and data in this agreement are true and correct. I acknowledge and agree that the failure to comply with all Assurances and Certifications in this agreement, all relevant provisions and requirements of the CARES Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136 (March 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.

Jennifer Shirley

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)

(205) 367-2080

Telephone Number



LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

03/30/2022

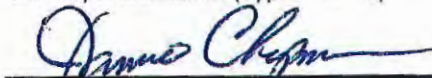
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Jamie Chapman

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

(205) 367-2080

Telephone Number



LEA Superintendent Signature

03/30/2022

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

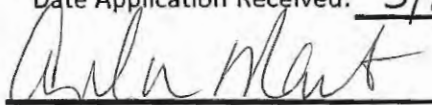
Send completed application to CARESapp@alsde.edu.

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

ALSDE Internal Use Only

Date Application Received: 3/15/2022

Date ALSDE Approved: 4/6/2022



State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

4/6/22

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____