



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	Sumter County Board of Education
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 10 Livingston, AL 35470
Physical Address	716 Country Club Road
City/Town and Zip Code	Livingston, AL 35470
Superintendent's Name	Anthony L. Gardner, Ed.D.
Contact Person	Anthony L. Gardner, Ed.D.
Contact Person Position	Superintendent
Contact Telephone Number	(205) 652-9605
Contact Email	agardner@sumter.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 superintendent and leadership team have determined our districts most pressing needs as it relates to the health and safety of students and staff, in addition to how we will be able to deliver the most effective and appropriate instruction under the current COVID-19 conditions. Additionally, we have surveyed our parents and staff as to their perceptions and concerns regarding starting the 20-21 school year and based on their responses, we have developed a plan around blended and remote learning opportunities for our students. However, those plans are subject to change based on the COVID-19 conditions in our county at the start of school. The most pressing needs identified in our budget are but are not limited to the following: Assistive technology i.e. laptops, chrome books, wifi hot spots and wifi adapters for school buses, Personal Protective Equipment for staff and students, sanitation supplies, transportation cost, software agreements, Protective barriers for the main offices in each school.

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

The Sumter County BOE will use benchmark data from assessment administered across grades K-11 prior to the dismissal of school in march and compare that information to data that will be gleaned from administering the i-ready and ACT benchmark assessment to our students. Also, we are planning to offer summer reading interventions to our primary and middle grades prior to the start of school. Additionally, we will be providing additional ACT and ACT Work Keys prep for students in grades 9-12 along with offering after school tutoring for all students.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Activities authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Activities authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Providing mental health services and supports. |
| <input checked="" 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.

[illegible]

Function	Object	Program	Amount	Brief Description of Expenditure
6910	910	8690	21,296.00	Indirect Cost
1100	495	8100	244,636.20	Assistive Technology for instructive via, blended or traditional instruction i.e., laptops, chrome books etc.
3200	442	8340	386,605.32	Barriers of plexiglass for student desk Mask and other Personal Protective
2190	419	8100	5,745.70	Equipment for staff and Students Hotspots for Internet, WIFI devices
1100	414	8100	28,396.38	Hotspots for Internet, WIFI devices
3200	441	8320	128,636.74	Disinfectants spray, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, floor cleaning supplies
3400	399	8340	16,473.42	Building Sanitizing-Consultants
2140	326	8100	9,730.00	Purchase Services (Nurse Services/Aide Supports)
3200	704	8340	37,385.00	Barriers for the main office in each school
1100	494	8100	330.24	Micro-Phone, Webcam
6210	589	8320	9,495.00	Copier-Student Learning packs)
Total			888,730.00	

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

During This summer and the coming school year PD will be offered to the instructional staff in order to develop effective instructional practices around the concept of remote learning. We will also look to include remote learning days in our instructional calendar each year moving forward. Budgeted amount for professional development regarding providing effective instruction via remote or blended learning; \$20,000.00. The district provided packs for the students continued instructional learning during the beginning of pandemic. All services will end September 30, 2022.

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

The Sumter County BOE will use the ESSER funds to promote remote learning by purchasing the necessary equipment i.e. laptops, chrome books, Wifi adapters for school buses, wifi hot spots and digital supplemental resources to support the overall instructional process. Also, funds will be used to purchase a copier to create student learning packs.

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 no private schools located in Sumter County at this time. (Please see Private School Enrollment Survey attached).

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?

The Sumter County BOE is exploring every available option in order to remove any barrier that will hinder equal access to all students. In addition to purchasing a variety of devices that will promote on-line access; the district is in the process of migrating its email platform from the basic Alabama Super Computer hosted email platform to the Office 365 email platform. This will allow us to increase the capacity of our teachers and students to communicate and collaborate with each other. Additionally, we will provide email accounts to all of our students. This will give the district the ability to monitor communication between teachers and students as well as student to student communication. Additionally, if barriers are to arise, we will move to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

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.

Jackie Meeks

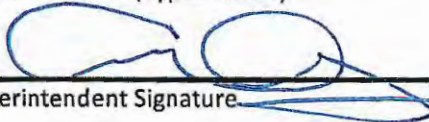
LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)



LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Anthony L. Gardner, Ed.D.

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)



LEA Superintendent Signature

(205) 658-9605

Telephone Number

6-7-2022

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

(205) 652-9605

Telephone Number

6-7-22

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: 6/7/2022

Date ALSDE Approved: 6/16/2022

State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

6/16/22

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: