

PART C: USES OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS

Section 18003 of Division B of the CARES Act provides in relevant part that grants awarded under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund be used to support the ability of local educational agencies (LEAs) to continue to provide educational services to their students. The Department requests the following:

1. Information that the SEA may request LEAs to include in their subgrant applications to the SEA. For example, an SEA might propose to include the following in developing its subgrant application:

- How the LEA will determine its most important educational needs as a result of COVID-19.
- The LEA's proposed timeline for providing services and assistance to students and staff in both public and non-public schools.
- The extent to which the LEA intends to use ESSER funds to promote remote learning.
- How the LEA intends to assess and address student learning gaps resulting from the disruption in educational services.

The above considerations are in addition to the application information requirements from sections 442 and 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232e and §1228a).

Given the pressing needs our LEAs face in light of the COVID-19 emergency, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) intends to use a streamlined application process.

NYSED will collect assurances that LEAs will comply with all applicable federal requirements, including allowable uses of funds, reporting, financial management, and recordkeeping requirements. NYSED will also ask LEAs to provide budgets describing how they intend to spend ESSER funds.

2. The extent to which the SEA intends to use any portion of its SEA reserve (up to 10 percent of its ESSER Fund award) to support:

- technological capacity and access – including hardware and software, connectivity, and instructional expertise – to support remote learning. If so, please describe the strategies the SEA intends to use to serve disadvantaged populations listed in Sec. 18003(d)(4) of the CARES Act; and
- remote learning by developing new informational and academic resources and expanding awareness of, and access to, best practices and innovations in remote learning and support for students, families, and educators.

Given the pressing needs our LEAs face in light of the COVID-19 emergency, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) intends to allocate 95% of our \$103.7 million Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund SEA reserve allocation to our Local Educational Agencies.