

# U.S. Department of Education

## Certification and Agreement for Funding under the Education Stabilization Fund Program Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund)

CFDA Number: 84.425D



OMB Number: 1810-0743  
Expiration Date: 10/31/2020

### Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this information collection is 1810-0743. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 5 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain benefit under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate, suggestions for improving this individual collection, or if you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual form, application or survey, please contact Christopher Tate, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Room 3E229, Washington, D.C. 20202 directly.

**ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (ESSER FUND)**

**STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY**

**PART A: CERTIFICATION AND AGREEMENT COVER SHEET**

State: South Carolina

CFDA Number: 84.425D

Legal Name: South Carolina Department of Education DUNS Number: 069313609

Chief State School Officer:

Mailing Address:

Molly M. Spearman

1429 Senate St., Ste. 1005 Columbia, SC 29201-3730

State Contact for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund: John R. Payne

Position and Office: Deputy Superintendent, Division of Federal Programs, Accountability and School Improvement

Mailing Address: 1429 Senate Street, Room 502-A  
Columbia, SC 29201

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Email address: jrpayne@ed.sc.gov

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 USC § 1001, as appropriate.

Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Typed Name):

Telephone:

Molly M. Spearman

(803) 734-8500

Authorized Representative:

Date:

04/29/2020

Number: 1810-0743 Expiration Date: 10/31/2020

## **PART B: PROGRAMMATIC, FISCAL, AND REPORTING ASSURANCES**

The [Chief State School Officer or his/her authorized representative] assures the following:

1. The SEA will allocate no less than 90 percent of the grant funds under this program to local educational agencies (LEAs) (including charter schools that are LEAs) in the State. Under the ESSER Fund, the SEA will award grants by formula to State educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing LEAs, including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the Nation. This includes both continuing to provide educational services, such as remote learning, while schools and campuses are closed, and developing and implementing plans for the return to normal operations. The SEA will allocate these funds to LEAs on the basis of their respective shares of funds received under title I, part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in fiscal year 2019.
2. The SEA will use the remaining funds (hereafter SEA reserve) for emergency needs as determined by the SEA to address issues related to COVID-19, which may be addressed through the use of grants or contracts. From an SEA's reserve, the SEA may use not more than 1/2 of 1 percent of the SEA's total grant for administrative costs.
3. The SEA will ensure that LEAs use ESSER funds for activities allowable under section 18003(d) of Division B of the CARES Act. (See Appendix A.)  
The Department generally 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.
4. The SEA will ensure that LEAs receiving ESSER funds will provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under 18005 of Division B of the CARES Act.
5. The SEA will ensure that an 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 SEA will ensure that a public agency will maintain control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school under the ESSER Fund.
  - The SEA will ensure that a public agency will have title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with ESSER funds.
  - The SEA will ensure that services to a non-public school with ESSER funds will be provided by a public agency directly, or through contract with, another public or private entity.
6. The SEA will comply with the maintenance of effort provision in Section 18008(a) of Division B of the CARES Act absent waiver by the Secretary pursuant to Section 18008(b) thereof.
7. The SEA and each LEA and any other entity 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, each entity that accepts funds will continue to pay employees and contractors to the greatest extent practicable based on the unique financial circumstances of the entity. 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.

8. The SEA must assure that, when applicable, it will provide technical assistance to LEAs 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.
9. The SEA will comply with all reporting requirements, including those in Section 15011(b)(2) of Division B of the CARES Act, and submit required quarterly reports to the Secretary at such time and in such manner and containing such information as the Secretary may subsequently require. (See also 2 CFR 200.327-200.329). The Secretary may require additional reporting in the future, which may include: the methodology LEAs will use to provide services or assistance to students and staff in both public and non-public schools, the uses of funds by the LEAs or other entities 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.
10. The SEA will submit to the Department, within 60 days of receiving ESSER funds, a report that will include:
  - A budget for the SEA’s reserve that includes information about the up to 1/2 of 1 percent of the SEA’s total grant for administrative costs and the uses of funds for emergency needs to address issues related to COVID-19; and
  - An Internal Control and Subrecipient Monitoring Plan to ensure that funds are used for allowable purposes in accordance with cash management principles.
11. The SEA will ensure that every recipient and subrecipient of ESSER funds will cooperate with any examination of records with respect to such funds by making records available for inspection, production, and examination, and authorized individuals available for interview and examination, upon the request of (i) the Department and/or its Inspector General; or (ii) any other federal agency, commission, or department in the lawful exercise of its jurisdiction and authority.
12. The SEA will return to the Secretary any funds received under the ESSER Fund that the SEA does not award within 1 year of receiving such funds.

Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Printed Name):

**Molly M. Spearman**

Signatur	Date: April 29, 2020
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## **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 local educational agencies (LEAs) face in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) intends to use a streamlined application process for the LEA subgrants that includes short descriptions of an LEA's plans to use funds for any of the twelve allowable activities with a budget for each planned use and an overall budget. The application will direct LEAs to provide a brief rationale on how it has determined the most important educational needs as a result of COVID-19. The LEA application will also direct LEAs to provide a proposed timeline to use of funds and descriptions of how they will use funds to promote remote learning, and how they intend to address learning gaps resulting from the disruption in educational services.

The SCDE will collect assurances that LEAs will comply with all applicable federal requirements, including allowable uses of funds, reporting, financial management, recordkeeping, and equitable services requirements. These will include an assurances regarding the continuation to compensate its current employees and contractors to the greatest extent practicable.

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.

The SCDE is working closely with the South Carolina Governor and LEA superintendents to maximize the use of the funds provided by the CARES Act while minimizing duplication of effort. The State Superintendent of Education has convened a group of key stakeholders to assist in providing recommendations to the state on continuing educational opportunities for the summer and when typical school resumes in the fall of 2020. Also, the SCDE is surveying LEAs regarding technology and remote/distance learning needs to determine statewide needs to shape how the state's reserve funds will be spent.

The SCDE intends to use some portion of its ESSER state reserve funds on technology capacity and access as well as remote learning. As the SCDE coordinates with the Governor's Office and LEAs, the SCDE will finalize the budget for the ESSER state reserve funds.

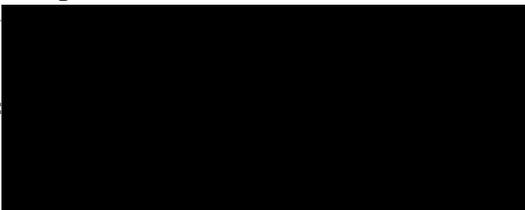
## PART D: OTHER ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS

The [Chief State School Officer or his/her authorized representative] assures or certifies the following:

1. The SEA will comply with all applicable assurances in OMB Standard Forms 424B and D (Assurances for Non-Construction and Construction Programs), including the assurances relating to the legal authority to apply for assistance; access to records; conflict of interest; merit systems; nondiscrimination; Hatch Act provisions; labor standards; flood hazards; historic preservation; protection of human subjects; animal welfare; lead-based paint; Single Audit Act; and the general agreement to comply with all applicable Federal laws, executive orders and regulations.
2. With respect to the certification regarding lobbying in Department Form 80-0013, no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program; the SEAE will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," when required (34 C.F.R. Part 82, Appendix B); and the SEA will require the full certification, as set forth in 34 C.F.R. Part 82, Appendix A, in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers.
3. Any LEA receiving funding under this program will have on file with the SEA a set of assurances that meets the requirements of section 442 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) (20 U.S.C. 1232e).
4. To the extent applicable, an LEA will include in its local application a description of how the LEA will comply with the requirements of section 427 of GEPA (20 U.S.C. 1228a). The description must include information on the steps the LEA proposes 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.
5. The SEA will comply with the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance) requirements in Subpart D—Post Federal Award Requirements (2 CFR §§200.300-345) and Subpart E—Cost Principles (2 CFR §§200.400-475) to ensure that LEAs, including charter schools that are LEAs, are using ESSER funds for purposes that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable under the CARES Act.
6. The SEA and other entities 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.

Chief State School Officer or Authorized Representative (Printed Name):

**Molly M. Spearman**

Signature		Date: 04/29/2020
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