

U.S. Department of Education

Certification and Agreement for Funding under the Education Stabilization Fund Program Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

CFDA Numbers: 84.425C



**OMB Number: 84.425C
Expiration Date: Oct 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 1810-0741. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average .5 hours (or 30 minutes) per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537. If you have comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: GEERF@ed.gov.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Purpose

Under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER Fund), the U.S. Department of Education (Department) awards grants to Governors for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education related entities with emergency assistance as a result of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Eligibility

Governors in all 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

Funding

The Department will award \$2,953,230,000 to Governors:

1. 60% based on the State's population of individuals aged 5 through 24; and
2. 40% based on the relative number of children counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA).

Timeline

Each Governor will have one year, from the date of the State's award, to award funds. Any funds not awarded by the Governor within one year of receiving the State's award will be returned to the Department for reallocation.

Uses of Funds

1. Provide emergency support through grants to the LEAs that the State educational agency (SEA) deems to have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such LEAs to continue to provide educational services to public and non-public school students and to support the on-going functionality of the LEA;
2. Provide emergency support through grants to IHEs serving students within the State that the Governor determines have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the ongoing functionality of the institution; and
3. Provide support to any other IHE, LEA, or education-related entity within the State that the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students for authorized activities described in section 18003(d)(1) of the CARES Act or the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), the provision of childcare and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs.

Contact

Email: GEERF@ed.gov

CERTIFICATION AND AGREEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

To receive the State's allocation under the GEER Fund, a Governor must submit a signed PDF Certification and Agreement, by email, to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) at GEERF@ed.gov no later than June 1, 2020. The Certification and Agreement must include the following:

- A completed Certification and Agreement cover sheet that includes the signature of the Governor or authorized representative. *(Part A)*
- Programmatic, fiscal and reporting assurances. *(Part B)*
- Information on the uses of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds. *(Part C)*
- Other assurances and certifications. *(Part D)*

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Authorizing Statute
Appendix B – State Allocation Data

**GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF FUND
PART A: CERTIFICATION AND AGREEMENT COVER SHEET
(CFDA Nos. 84.425C)**

Legal Name (Office of the Governor): Office of the Governor- Texas	DUNS Number: 806780839
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Address (Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code): 1100 San Jacinto Blvd. Austin, TX 78701
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Contact Information for State Program Representative: Name: Jordan Hale

Position & Office: Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
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Street Number and Name, City, State, Zip Code: 1100 San Jacinto Blvd. Austin, TX 78701
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Telephone: 512-936-2160

Email address: jordan.hale@gov.texas.gov
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To the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the information and data in this certification and 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 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or 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.

Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor (Typed Name): Jordan Hale	Telephone: 512-936-2160
Signature of Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor: Jordan Hale	Date: 06/01/2020

GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF FUND
PART B: PROGRAMMATIC, FISCAL, AND REPORTING ASSURANCES

The Governor or his/her authorized representative assures the following:

- Solely as authorized by Section 18002 of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136 (March 27, 2020), and subject to all other applicable laws, funds will be used for one or more of the following:
 - To provide emergency support through grants to the local educational agencies (LEAs) that the State educational agency (SEA) deems most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such LEAs to continue to provide educational services to public and non-public school students and to support the on-going functionality of the LEA;
 - To provide emergency support through grants to institutions of higher education (IHEs) serving students within the State that the Governor determines have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19 to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the on-going functionality of the institution; and
 - To provide support to any other IHE, LEA, or education-related entity within the State that the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students for authorized activities described in Section 18003(d)(1) of the CARES Act or the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), the provision of childcare and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs.
- The State 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.
- The State, and each LEA, IHE, and other education-related entity that receives GEER funds will, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay 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.
- The State will submit to the Department, within 45 days of receiving GEER funds, an initial report detailing the State's process for awarding those funds to LEAs, IHEs, or other education-related entities, including the criteria for determining those entities that are "most significantly impacted by coronavirus" and/or "essential for carrying out emergency educational services" and a description of the process and deliberations involved in formulating those criteria.
- The State will use its best efforts to provide grant funding on an expedited basis.
- The State 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 reasonably require in the future. (See also 2 CFR 200.327-200.329). The Secretary may require additional reporting in the future, which may include:
 - Specific entities awarded GEER funds by the Governor;
 - Uses of funds by the SEA, LEAs, IHEs, or other educational entities and demonstration of their compliance with Section 18002(c), including any use of funds was applied to support addressing digital divide and related issues in distance learning;

- The number of public and non-public schools that received funds or services; and
 - A description of the internal controls the State has in place to ensure that funds were used for allowable purposes and in accordance with cash management principles.
- Generally speaking, the Department does not expect administrative or executive salaries and benefits for IHEs, SEAs, or the other education related entities referenced at § 18002(c)(3) to be a lawful purpose for GEER funds.
- Similarly, the Department does expect increased reporting requirements if these funds are used for payments to education related entities. If a State, in the exercise of its discretion, allows GEER funds to be used accordingly, then it must report the amount of GEER funds (a) (i) used for, to subsidize, or to offset administrative or executive salaries and benefits and/or (ii) provided to or for the benefit of state, local, or IHE teacher or faculty unions or associations; and (b) a detailed description of the evidence providing a reasoned basis for the determination such funds (if any) are necessary to provide educational services to students and/or to support the on-going functionality of a LEA or IHE, or are otherwise specifically authorized by the plain statutory language and context of § 18002(c)(3) of the CARES Act.
- The State will ensure that an LEA receiving GEER 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 State will ensure that a public agency will maintain control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school under the GEER Fund.
 - The State will ensure that a public agency will have title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with GEER funds.
 - The State will ensure that services to a non-public school with GEER funds will be provided by a public agency directly, or through contract with, another public or private entity.
- The State will ensure that every recipient and subrecipient of GEER 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.
- The State will return to the Secretary any funds received under the GEER Fund that the State does not award within 1 year of receiving such funds.

Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor (Typed Name):

Jordan Hale

Signature:

Jordan Hale

Date:

06/01/2020

**GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF FUND
PART C: USES OF GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION FUNDS**

Section 18002 of Division B of the CARES Act provides in relevant part that grants awarded under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund be used to support the ability of local educational agencies (LEAs) and institutions of higher education (IHEs) to continue to provide educational services to their students. The Department is interested in learning how and to what extent each State intends to use the award, or a portion of the award, to establish, develop, improve, or expand the availability, accessibility, capacity, and use of remote learning techniques and technologies which includes both distance education as defined in section 103(7) of the HEA and distance learning as defined in ESEA section 8101(14). The Department requests the following information:

1. Does the State intend to use any of the awarded funds to support remote learning for all students?
 - a. Please describe whether the State considered conducting an assessment of the barriers to implementing effective remote learning for all students, or utilizing an existing assessment, to help target resources toward greatest needs.
 - b. With respect to LEAs, please describe how the State intends to use the funds to help students and teachers adopt or improve remote learning that serves all students, including students with disabilities, students from low-income families, charter school students, and non-public school students.
 - c. With respect to IHEs, please describe how the State intends to focus expenditures to ensure that all institutions – public and private – have the needed supports to continue executing their missions and educating their students.

The State of Texas will transfer GEER funds to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to, in part, support remote learning for all students.

TEA (K-12)

The State of Texas intends to use a portion of the GEER funds for a number of projects related to the purposes described in the question above. The state has launched Operation Connectivity with the stated goal of ensuring 100% of students have broadband and the necessary devices at home so that every student can participate in distance learning. As part of that, a comprehensive needs assessment is in process to diagnose current barriers to access. Additionally, an Instructional Continuity Task Force has gathered feedback on the tooling needed to ensure all LEAs can offer quality distance learning. GEER funding has the potential to ensure that state can reach the goal related to connectivity.

With over 1200 school systems in Texas, there is a huge variety in the quality of distance learning curricular tools in various districts, leading to significant inequity in terms of student experience during COVID closures. The State of Texas intends to use a portion of the GEER

2. Does the State intend to use any of the awarded funds to support technological capacity and access – including hardware and software, connectivity, and instructional expertise – to support remote learning for all students? If so, please describe how the State will achieve its goals for both LEAs and IHEs.
- a. Please describe the strategies used to serve disadvantaged populations listed in Sec. 18003(d)(4) of the CARES Act.

TEA (K-12)

The State of Texas intends to use a portion of the GEER funds to support technical capacity and access to remote learning for all students. As described above, TEA plans to address the inequity and inconsistency of remote learning capabilities by providing a comprehensive set of instructional materials in an online, modifiable learning environment with aligned assessments and progress monitoring components. It is estimated that this project will improve full-time or part-time at home learning for over 4 million Texas students.

Given the disruption in normal school attendance caused by COVID-19, students must be able to continue learning at home. This requires broadband access and devices at home. A significant percentage of students do not have access to internet at home, including large numbers of low income and rural Texas families. The previously mentioned Operation Connectivity will help lessen this inequity. Also previously mentioned, the proposed program for dyslexia intervention will improve remote learning for that cohort of students.

THECB (Higher Education)

3. Does the State intend to use any of the awarded funds to support 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? If so, please identify, generally, the resources, best practices, and innovations that the State intends to develop and expand.

TEA (K-12)

As described above, TEA plans to use a portion of the GEER funds to provide a comprehensive set of instructional materials in an online, modifiable learning environment with aligned assessments and progress monitoring components. The high-quality instructional materials are available to make up for lost learning time and to contingency plan for possible future, continuous learning at home in a variety of in person or remote scenarios. It is estimated that this project will improve full-time or part-time at home learning for over 4 million Texas students.

THECB (Higher Education)

In addition to the purposes described above, the state plans to use a portion of the GEER funds to develop and improve data infrastructure to provide timely, actionable intelligence to

**GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF FUND
PART D: OTHER ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS**

The Governor or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:

- The State 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.
- 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 State will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," when required (34 CFR part 82, Appendix B); and the State will require the full certification, as set forth in 34 CFR part 82, Appendix A, in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers.
- Any LEA receiving funding under this program will have on file with the State a set of assurances that meets the requirements of Section 442 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232e.
- 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 access to, or participation in, the program.
- The State and other entities will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations, and assurances; the provisions of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR parts 75, 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 86, 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 Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR part 3474.

Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor (Typed Name):

Jordan Hale

Signature:

Jordan Hale

Date:

06/01/2020

Appendix A: Relevant Excerpts from Title VIII of Division B of the CARES Act, the Emergency Appropriations for Coronavirus Health Response and Agency Operations

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND

For an additional amount for “Education Stabilization Fund”, \$30,750,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND

SEC. 18001. (a) ALLOCATIONS.—From the amount made available under this heading in this Act to carry out the Education Stabilization Fund, the Secretary shall first allocate—

- (1) not more than 1/2 of 1 percent to the outlying areas on the basis of their respective needs, as determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior;
- (2) one-half of 1 percent for the Secretary of Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, for programs operated or funded by the Bureau of Indian Education; and
- (3) 1 percent for grants to States with the highest coronavirus burden to support activities under this heading in this Act, for which the Secretary shall issue a notice inviting applications not later than 30 days of enactment of this Act and approve or deny applications not later than 30 days after receipt.

(b) RESERVATIONS.—After carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall reserve the remaining funds made available as follows:

- (1) 9.8 percent to carry out section 18002 of this title.
- (2) 43.9 percent to carry out section 18003 of this title.
- (3) 46.3 percent to carry out section 18004 of this title.

GOVERNOR’S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF FUND

SEC. 18002. (a) GRANTS.—From funds reserved under section 18001(b)(1) of this title, the Secretary shall make Emergency Education Relief grants to the Governor of each State with an approved application. The Secretary shall issue a notice inviting applications not later than 30 days of enactment of this Act and shall approve or deny applications not later than 30 days after receipt.

(b) ALLOCATIONS.—The amount of each grant under subsection

(a) shall be allocated by the Secretary to each State as follows:

- (1) 60 percent on the basis of their relative population

of individuals aged 5 through 24.

(2) 40 percent on the basis of their relative number of children counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (referred to under this heading as “ESEA”).

(c) USES OF FUNDS.—Grant funds awarded under subsection (b) may be used to—

(1) provide emergency support through grants to local educational agencies that the State educational agency deems have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus to support the ability of such local educational agencies to continue to provide educational services to their students and to support the on-going functionality of the local educational agency;

(2) provide emergency support through grants to institutions of higher education serving students within the State that the Governor determines have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the on-going functionality of the institution; and

(3) provide support to any other institution of higher education, local educational agency, or education related entity within the State that the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students for authorized activities described in section 18003(d)(1) of this title or the Higher Education Act, the provision of child care and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs.

(d) REALLOCATION.—Each Governor shall return to the Secretary any funds received under this section that the Governor does not award within one year of receiving such funds and the Secretary shall reallocate such funds to the remaining States in accordance with subsection (b).

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

SEC. 18003. (a) GRANTS.—From funds reserved under section 18001(b)(2) of this title, the Secretary shall make elementary and secondary school emergency relief grants to each State educational agency with an approved application. The Secretary shall issue a notice inviting applications not later than 30 days of enactment of this Act and approve or deny applications not later than 30 days after receipt.

(b) ALLOCATIONS TO STATES.—The amount of each grant under subsection (a) shall be allocated by the Secretary to each State in the same proportion as each State received under part A of title I of the ESEA of 1965 in the most recent fiscal year.

(c) SUBGRANTS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—Each State shall allocate not less than 90 percent of the grant funds awarded to the State under this section as subgrants to local educational

agencies (including charter schools that are local educational agencies) in the State in proportion to the amount of funds such local educational agencies and charter schools that are local educational agencies received under part A of title I of the ESEA of 1965 in the most recent fiscal year.

(d) USES OF FUNDS.—A local educational agency that receives funds under this title may use the funds for any of the following:

(1) Any activity authorized by the ESEA of 1965, including the Native Hawaiian Education Act and the Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) (“IDEA”), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) (“the Perkins Act”), or subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.).

(2) Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational 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.

(3) Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.

(4) 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.

(5) Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.

(6) Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.

(7) Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.

(8) 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 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.

(9) 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.

(10) Providing mental health services and supports.

(11) 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.

(12) 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.

(e) STATE FUNDING.—With funds not otherwise allocated under subsection (c), a State may reserve not more than 1/2 of 1 percent for administrative costs and the remainder for emergency needs as determined by the state educational agency to address issues responding to coronavirus, which may be addressed through the use of grants or contracts.

(f) REALLOCATION.—A State shall return to the Secretary any funds received under this section that the State does not award within 1 year of receiving such funds and the Secretary shall reallocate such funds to the remaining States in accordance with subsection (b).

ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SEC. 18005. (a) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency receiving funds under sections 18002 or 18003 of this title shall provide equitable services in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of the ESEA of 1965 to students and teachers in non-public schools, as determined in consultation with representatives of non-public schools.

(b) PUBLIC CONTROL OF FUNDS.—The control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school under subsection (a), and title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with such funds, shall be in a public agency, and a public agency shall administer such funds, materials, equipment, and property and shall provide such services (or may contract for the provision of such services with a public or private entity).

CONTINUED PAYMENT TO EMPLOYEES

SEC. 18006. A local educational agency, State, institution of higher education, or other entity that receives funds under “Education

Stabilization Fund”, shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 18007. Except as otherwise provided in sections 18001–18006 of this title, as used in such sections—

- (1) the terms “elementary education” and “secondary education” have the meaning given such terms under State law;
- (2) the term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.);
- (3) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Education;
- (4) the term “State” means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
- (5) the term “cost of attendance” has the meaning given such term in section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.
- (6) the term “Non-public school” means a non-public elementary and secondary school that (A) is accredited, licensed, or otherwise operates in accordance with State law; and (B) was in existence prior to the date of the qualifying emergency for which grants are awarded under this section;
- (7) the term “public school” means a public elementary or secondary school; and
- (8) any other term used that is defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801) shall have the meaning given the term in such section.

MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

SEC. 18008. (a) A State’s application for funds to carry out sections 18002 or 18003 of this title shall include assurances that the State will maintain support for elementary and secondary education, and State support for higher education (which shall include State funding to institutions of higher education and state need based financial aid, and shall not include support for capital projects or for research and development or tuition and fees paid by students) in fiscal years 2020 and 2021 at least at the levels of such support that is the average of such State’s support for elementary and secondary education and for higher education provided in the 3 fiscal years preceding the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) The secretary may waive the requirement in subsection (a) for the purpose of relieving fiscal burdens on States that have experienced a precipitous decline in financial resources.

Appendix B: State Allocation Data

Under section 18002(b) of the CARES Act, the Secretary awards GEER funds to Governors as follows:

1. 60% based on the State's population of individuals aged 5 through 24; and
2. 40% based on the relative number of children counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA).

STATE	GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF FUND (Based on section 18002(b) of the CARES Act)
TOTAL	\$2,953,230,000
ALABAMA	48,851,495
ALASKA	6,503,527
ARIZONA	69,196,325
ARKANSAS	30,663,725
CALIFORNIA	355,227,235
COLORADO	44,004,996
CONNECTICUT	27,881,682
DELAWARE	7,916,821
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	5,807,678
FLORIDA	173,585,880
GEORGIA	105,720,728
HAWAII	9,993,387
IDAHO	15,676,340
ILLINOIS	108,497,757
INDIANA	61,590,954
IOWA	26,217,108
KANSAS	26,274,163
KENTUCKY	43,799,187
LOUISIANA	50,276,799
MAINE	9,273,552
MARYLAND	45,657,990
MASSACHUSETTS	50,843,703
MICHIGAN	89,432,673
MINNESOTA	43,427,249
MISSISSIPPI	34,662,872
MISSOURI	54,643,115
MONTANA	8,764,495
NEBRASKA	16,357,685
NEVADA	26,477,349
NEW HAMPSHIRE	8,891,470
NEW JERSEY	68,864,994
NEW MEXICO	22,262,663
NEW YORK	164,286,083
NORTH CAROLINA	95,638,869

NORTH DAKOTA	5,932,707
OHIO	104,917,025
OKLAHOMA	39,919,354
OREGON	32,507,956
PENNSYLVANIA	104,418,240
RHODE ISLAND	8,704,245
SOUTH CAROLINA	48,467,924
SOUTH DAKOTA	7,944,013
TENNESSEE	63,582,031
TEXAS	307,026,008
UTAH	29,189,663
VERMONT	4,488,802
VIRGINIA	66,775,322
WASHINGTON	56,769,263
WEST VIRGINIA	16,353,314
WISCONSIN	46,550,411
WYOMING	4,700,937
PUERTO RICO	47,812,236

1. **Does the State intend to use any of the awarded funds to support remote learning for all students?**
 - a. **Please describe whether the State considered conducting an assessment of the barriers to implementing effective remote learning for all students, or utilizing an existing assessment, to help target resources toward greatest needs.**
 - b. **With respect to LEAs, please describe how the State intends to use the funds to help students and teachers adopt or improve remote learning that serves all students, including students with disabilities, students from low-income families, charter school students, and non-public school students.**
 - c. **With respect to IHEs, please describe how the State intends to focus expenditures to ensure that all institutions – public and private – have the needed supports to continue executing their missions and educating their students.**
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The State of Texas will transfer GEER funds to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to, in part, support remote learning for all students.

TEA (K-12)

The State of Texas intends to use a portion of the GEER funds for a number of projects related to the purposes described in the question above. The state has launched Operation Connectivity with the stated goal of ensuring 100% of students have broadband and the necessary devices at home so that every student can participate in distance learning. As part of that, a comprehensive needs assessment is in process to diagnose current barriers to access. Additionally, an Instructional Continuity Task Force has gathered feedback on the tooling needed to ensure all LEAs can offer quality distance learning. GEER funding has the potential to ensure that state can reach the goal related to connectivity.

With over 1200 school systems in Texas, there is a huge variety in the quality of distance learning curricular tools in various districts, leading to significant inequity in terms of student experience during COVID closures. The State of Texas intends to use a portion of the GEER funds to address that inequity by providing a comprehensive set of instructional materials in an online, modifiable learning environment with aligned assessments and progress monitoring components. The high-quality instructional materials will be available to make up for lost learning time and for contingency plans for possible future, continuous learning at-home in a variety of in-person and remote scenarios. TEA has estimated that this project will improve full-time and part-time at-home learning for over 4 million Texas students.

Those students who require additional assistance should continue to be supported even while school buildings are closed. TEA has also proposed using a portion of the GEER funds to provide a virtual, evidence-based dyslexia intervention service that includes all required state components and uses a technology platform that allows for continuity of dyslexia intervention to occur. The platform will include seamless integration of all curriculum resources and

materials with delivery options that allow for the curriculum and related curriculum resources to be delivered through total virtual instruction, blended instruction, or face to face instruction.

THECB (Higher Education)

Texas leaders, including institutional officers at public and private institutions responsible for digital learning, have shared with the THECB that instructional design remains a barrier to effective remote learning. While Texas institutions rapidly converted almost all their course offerings to remote or online formats, faculty need additional support going forward to ensure that online courses reflect principles of effective instructional design and are accessible to all students. THECB had already begun working with IHEs to remove barriers to remote learning through development and implementation of an online educational resources (OER) course content statewide repository. Further development will aid in the rapid scaling of a searchable library of course materials for Texas Core Curriculum courses, customized by Texas faculty, that represent the majority of courses transferred among institutions and that can be available for free or at-cost to Texas students.

The state intends to use a portion of GEER funds to make targeted grants available to Texas colleges and universities – both public and private – through THECB to support effective online learning in the following categories:

- Grants to support faculty teams in developing new OER for online delivery of one or more of the fifty most frequently transferred Texas Core Curriculum courses, with an emphasis on effective instructional design.
- Grants to support faculty teams in the effective redesign of any of the fifty most frequently transferred Texas Core Curriculum courses, incorporating or adapting existing OER. These courses represent the vast majority of courses transferred among and across Texas institutions.
- Grants to support the implementation of institutional data analytics and reporting capabilities to drive student progress toward timely completion.

In addition, THECB will work closely with Texas institutions and national experts to produce a web-based online learning and student success clearinghouse to present curated resources and associated data about effective approaches to online learning and student success.

Does the State intend to use any of the awarded funds to support technological capacity and access – including hardware and software, connectivity, and instructional expertise – to support remote learning for all students?

If so, please describe how the State will achieve its goals for both LEAs and IHEs.

a. Please describe the strategies used to serve disadvantaged populations listed in Sec. 18003(d)(4) of the CARES Act.

TEA (K-12)

The State of Texas intends to use a portion of the GEER funds to support technical capacity and access to remote learning for all students. As described above, TEA plans to address the inequity and

inconsistency of remote learning capabilities by providing a comprehensive set of instructional materials in an online, modifiable learning environment with aligned assessments and progress monitoring components. It is estimated that this project will improve full-time or part-time at home learning for over 4 million Texas students.

Given the disruption in normal school attendance caused by COVID-19, students must be able to continue learning at home. This requires broadband access and devices at home. A significant percentage of students do not have access to internet at home, including large numbers of low income and rural Texas families. The previously mentioned Operation Connectivity will help lessen this inequity. Also previously mentioned, the proposed program for dyslexia intervention will improve remote learning for that cohort of students.

THECB (Higher Education)

The State of Texas plans to direct a portion of GEER funds so the THECB can work with Texas institutions and national experts to produce a web-based clearinghouse to present curated information and associated data about effective, evidence-based approaches to online learning and student success. One of the essential functions of this clearinghouse will be to support facilitated networks of faculty and institutional leaders responsible for digital learning and expand access to instructional expertise about effective design for digital learning.

Funding will also strengthen institutional data capabilities and technological capacity to monitor and support efficient student progress toward high-value credentials and promising careers. Texas colleges and universities will be eligible to receive the grants described in the section above to improve online learning, especially related to OER and analytics.

In addition, the state plans to use a portion of the GEER funds to provide emergency student support, administered through THECB and then through Texas IHE's, to the disadvantaged populations listed in Sec. 18003(d)(4) of the CARES Act, including new and current students whose families are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. This will ensure students are able to begin or continue their higher education and stay on their path to earning a high-value credential and joining the workforce. THECB's existing grant payment system will enable rapid distribution of payments to IHEs.

Does the State intend to use any of the awarded funds to support 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?

If so, please identify, generally, the resources, best practices, and innovations that the State intends to develop and expand.

TEA (K-12)

As described above, TEA plans to use a portion of the GEER funds to provide a comprehensive set of instructional materials in an online, modifiable learning environment with aligned assessments and progress monitoring components. The high-quality instructional materials are available to make up for lost learning time and to contingency plan for possible future, continuous learning at home in a variety

of in person or remote scenarios. It is estimated that this project will improve full-time or part-time at home learning for over 4 million Texas students.

THECB (Higher Education)

In addition to the purposes described above, the state plans to use a portion of the GEER funds to develop and improve data infrastructure to provide timely, actionable intelligence to students, institutions, employers, and policymakers for stronger advising, increased efficiency, and ongoing improvement. This infrastructure will include technology-enabled advising resources for students and educators, including new applications to enable educators to monitor and support students' progress-to-credential. For students and their families, educators, and policymakers, this infrastructure could include:

- An interactive advising tool to help Texans identify and connect with higher education programs, compare training opportunities and programs of interest, access interactive advising, apply for financial aid, view potential costs and earnings, search job opportunities, and grant permission for records to be shared across multiple institutions and scholarship providers.
- Accelerated production of an application now being developed by Texas colleges and universities to enable students to identify efficient pathways to postsecondary credentials, including potential applicability of dual credit, advanced placement (AP), and transfer credits to degree pathways.
- Updated secondary and postsecondary college and career adviser training resources focused on college readiness options, career advising in the context of post-pandemic recovery, and college and career advising for adult and returning students.
- Progress-to-credential dashboards and secure tools to enable every Texas college and university to monitor individual student progress through recommended course sequences and identify students who go off-track. These new capabilities will dramatically enhance student advising capabilities and enable a range of new state policy options focused on student progress efficiencies.

The secure, cloud-based infrastructure to support these and other innovative tools that will support effective, technology-enabled learning and student success across the state will include integrated analytics, visualization tools, and robust governance. This infrastructure will also enable program-level reporting of postsecondary and workforce outcomes for every IHE. Going forward, this infrastructure will also facilitate access to and ongoing analysis of the state's robust educational and workforce data for state agencies, IHEs, researchers, and external partners.