



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

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 that Washington state was one of the earliest states affected by the pandemic, we intend to use a streamlined application process with our LEAs.

We will collect assurances that LEAs will comply with all applicable federal requirements, including allowable uses of funds, reporting, financial management, and recordkeeping requirements.

We will also ask LEAs to provide budgets describing how they intend to spend ESSER funds. Specifically, we will request information about direct COVID-19 expenditures realized to date including supplies, technology hardware for staff and students, connectivity, professional development, nutrition supports, childcare supports, expected future costs related to these categories, and any expenses related to planning and deployment of our Fall 2020 opening and beyond.

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.

We intend to use our state-level reservation of funds on technology capacity and access. We will focus on student and staff connectivity with emphasis on students who are FRPL eligible. In addition, we will support comprehensive services and programs for students that have been impacted by COVID-19 school building closures.

We will continue to work with stakeholders in Washington state to determine how to further identify local needs and deploy our state-level funds given the emergency needs in our state.