**Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds**

**Sub-recipient Monitoring/Guidance**

Connecticut received $111 million in funding of which $11 million is being reserved for state level activities that address the following priorities: access to devices; internet connectivity; online academic content; and social/emotional supports. The balance of funds, $99 million, is being distributed to local education agencies (LEA’s) in accordance with the CARES Act and guidance documents from the United States Department of Education. Eligible LEA’s were notified of their allocation and will file an online application developed by the department utilizing eGMS (our electronic Grants Management System) to access these funds.

**Department Oversight and Technical Assistance:**

To assist districts with administration of the grant the department set up the CARES Act ESSER Team. The team consists of seven cross divisional senior level program managers whose ESSER related activities are coordinated by our Title I Program Manager and report to our Chief Financial Officer. Each program manager was assigned a similar number of LEAs to provide technical assistance and monitoring in the following areas:

* Application and expenditure of funding for eligible activities as detailed in ***the Eligible LEA Level Activities*** section of this document.
* Calculation of “equitable services” provision including documentation of contact with non-public schools; documentation of provision of services and maintenance of funds with public entity.
* Compliance with the provisions of ***the Grants Requirement and Documentation*** section of this document, including additional monitoring and reporting requirements for LEAs receiving a grant greater than $150,000.
* Compliance with the ***GEPA Section 442*** Assurances section of this document.

**Eligible LEA Level Activities:**

LEAs may use funds for 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.). The following more specifically describe the types of eligible activities under ESSERF:

❖ Improving coordination of LEA preparedness and response efforts with other agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus;

 ❖ Planning for and coordination between schools and families during long-term closures, including meals, access to high quality online learning, and ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all applicable requirements;

❖ Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students served by the LEA that aids in regular and substantive educational interactions between students and their classroom teachers, including assistive technology or adaptive equipment;

❖ 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;

❖ Providing mental health services and supports;

❖ Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning, supplemental afterschool programs and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care, and

❖ Other activities that are necessary to maintain operations and continuity of services and continuing to employ existing staff.

**Grant Requirements & Documentation**

The superintendent of the recipient LEA must abide by the following requirements and agree to provide appropriate documentation upon request of CSDE program manager.

1. Acknowledge and agree that the failure to comply with all Assurances and Certifications in this application, 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 Government -wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) 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.
2. All ESSER funds will be used for activities allowable under section 18003(d) of Division B of the CARES Act. No funds shall be used: to subsidize or offset executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of our district; for expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations.
3. The LEA must provide equitable services as required under 18005 of Division B of the CARES Act, including provision of equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools located within our 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.
4. The LEA shall:
	1. Maintain control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school under the ESSER Fund;
	2. Have title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with ESSER funds; and
	3. 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

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1. The LEA shall provide reports as may be required by the CSDE which could include but are not limited to: the methodology use(d) to provide services or assistance to students and staff in both public and non-public schools; the uses of funds (by the district and/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.
2. All requests for payment shall be based upon allowable purposes and made in accordance with cash management principles.
3. The LEA shall cooperate with any examination of records with respect to such ESSER funds by making records available for inspection, production, and examination, and authorized individuals available for interview and examination, upon the request of (i) the United States Department of Education and/or its Inspector General; or (ii) any other federal agency, commission, or department in the lawful exercise of its jurisdiction and authority.
4. The LEA 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), which states that (ESSER) funds must be used for purposes that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable under the CARES Act.
5. 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 Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement) 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

**LEAs with an allocation greater than $150,000 must agree to the following:**

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| **The Local Educational Agency (LEA) hereby assures the State Educational Agency (SEA) that as a condition of receiving more than $150,000, it will report to CSDE on such forms and in such manner as required:**  |
| a.       the total amount of funds received from U.S. Department of Education;  |
| b.      the amount spent or obligated for each project or activity supported with CARES Act funds;  |
| c.       a list of projects supported with CARES Act funds (including name, description, and estimated number of jobs created or retained); and  |
| d.      information on subcontracts and sub-grants.  |

**GEPA Section 442 Assurances**

The Local Educational Agency (LEA) certifies to CSDE that the LEA will follow all regulations applicable for CSDE, including those outlined below.

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| 1. | Each program will be administered in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications; |
| 2. | Control of funds and property acquired using program funds will be maintained and administered by the appropriate public agency; |
| 3. | Fiscal control and fund accounting procedures will be used to ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, federal funds; |
| 4. | The LEA will make reports to the state agency or board and to the Secretary as may be needed for the state agency or board and the Secretary to perform their duties under each program, and each LEA will maintain records (as required in Section 443) and provide access to those records as the state board or agency Secretary deems necessary to carry out their responsibilities; |
| 5. | The LEA will provide opportunities for the participation in, planning for, and operation of each program by teachers, parents, and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals; |
| 6. | Applications, evaluations, plans, or reports related to each program will be made available to parents and the public; |
| 7. | Facilities constructed under any program will be consistent with overall state construction plans and standards and with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in order to ensure that the facilities are accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities; |
| 8. | The LEA has adopted effective procedures for acquiring and disseminating information and research regarding the programs and for adopting, where appropriate, promising educational practices to teachers and administrators participating in each program; and |
| 9. | None of the funds expended under any applicable program will be used to acquire equipment if such acquisition results in a direct financial benefit to any organization representing the interests of the purchasing entity or its employees. |

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