



THE SECRETARY OF
EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

January 8, 2021

Dear [Governor] XXXXX:

Thank you for everything you continue to do during the COVID-19 pandemic to address the needs of all students and families in your state.

Last spring, as part of the \$30.75 billion provided through the Education Stabilization Fund authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the U.S. Department of Education awarded nearly \$3 billion through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER Fund). You received a GEER Fund award of \$XX,XXX,XXX, so that you could provide assistance to students and families through school districts, institutions of higher education, and other education-related organizations.

On December 27, 2020, President Trump signed into law the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, (CRRSA Act) Public Law 116-260, which added another \$81.88 billion to the Education Stabilization Fund, including an additional \$4,053,060,000 for the GEER Fund. Congress set aside \$2.75 billion of the GEER Fund under the CRRSA Act specifically to provide emergency assistance to students and teachers in non-public (i.e., private) schools.

Today, the Department is announcing a total award of \$XX,XXX,XXX in GEER funds will be available to [State] under the CRRSA Act. This new funding is intended to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on all students and families, including those who choose private schools. The portion reserved for Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) is \$XX,XXX,XXX. We refer to the balance, \$XX,XXX,XXX, as your GEER II Fund award.

Since the beginning of this pandemic, parents have been counting on your leadership to ensure their students can continue to learn in ways that work for them. While some education leaders have risen to the occasion and provided students with education options that meet their needs, far too many parents across the country are frustrated by a stunning lack of access to safe in-person learning for their kids. Given all of the additional federal taxpayer money flowing to states, each and every governor can focus on using these funds to safely re-open schools and ensure all students who want and need an in-person learning opportunity have access to it.

While Congress, the unions, and Washington insiders played politics with the first round of COVID-19 relief, too many kids were disadvantaged when their private schools were forced to close or when they lost their scholarships. I was pleased to see Congress finally acknowledge in this latest relief package what this Administration has said all along: **All** students and **all** educators at **all** schools — private, parochial, and public — are affected by this pandemic. They all need and deserve support for PPE, cleaning supplies, learning materials, and more. I hope you will do everything in your power with this fund to support all students and teachers, no matter the school.

Consistent with Congressional intent to provide new funding quickly and with minimal administrative burden, you are not required to submit an additional application to receive your GEER II award. Within the next three days, you will receive a Grant Award Notification (GAN) through the federal grants management system (G5), which provides the GEER II grant award and details its terms and conditions.

Because EANS is a new program under the CRRSA Act, Governors should expeditiously apply for funds here: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/emergency-assist...n-public-schools/>. The Department will approve or deny applications, which are deemed certifications and agreements, promptly. The services and assistance provided to private schools will be managed by your State educational agency to support activities related to safely reopening schools, continuing instruction, and addressing learning loss, including educational technology and reimbursement for COVID-19-related costs.

Although the uses of funds for GEER II awards are similar to those for GEER awards under the CARES Act, there are important distinctions, including the period of funds availability, equitable services to non-public schools, and maintenance of effort. You should plan to use all remaining GEER funds *before* using GEER II funds, given the shorter remaining period of availability. Please consult the accompanying fact sheet to learn more about the GEER II and EANS program.

I have enclosed a table that shows State allocations for the standard GEER II Fund. Allocations are based on States' student-aged population and poverty levels. For the EANS program, allocations are based on States' students eligible for the federal lunch program and enrolled in non-public schools. If you or your staff have questions about GEER II or EANS, please reach out to us directly or submit questions using your State OESE Mailbox: [State].[oese@ed.gov](mailto:[State].oese@ed.gov).

Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of all students in your State.

Sincerely,

Betsy DeVos

Enclosures