



State of Alabama
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund
Local Educational Agency (LEA) Application

In order to receive a CARES Act GEER Fund allocation, an LEA must submit this application to the SEA.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. LEA Information	
LEA Name	Etowah County Board of Education
Mailing Address	3200 West Meighan Blvd.
Physical Address	3200 West Meighan Blvd.
City/Town and Zip Code	Gadsden, 35904
Superintendent's Name	Dr. Alan Cosby
Contact Person	Susan Bishop
Contact Person Position	CSFO
Contact Telephone Number	(256) 549-7593
Contact Email	Susan_Bishop@ecboe.org

PROGRAMMATIC, FISCAL, AND REPORTING ASSURANCES

The United States Department of Education (USED) has approved the application from the State of Alabama for GEER funds under the CARES Act. The Governor of Alabama allocated \$48,851,495 to the Alabama State Department of Education. GEER funds can be obligated through 9/30/2022. Pre-award costs to the GEER fund will be allowed for allowable cost incurred on or after March 13, 2020.

2. Allowable Service(s) Section

The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies that they will use the awarded GEER funds in the following ways (select one option per letter):

A. Private School Equitable Services Allocation

NOTE: Use the Private School Equitable Services Implementation Form for this section.

- The LEA has no private schools in their attendance area
- The LEA has private schools but ALL declined to participate in CARES Act GEER funding
- The LEA has private schools that will participate in CARES Act GEER funding

Complete the section below only if you have private schools that will be participating in GEER funds:

Total LEA GEER Allocation	\$519,530.00
Total LEA Private School Allocation	\$3,215.91
Total LEA Private School Administrative Costs Set-Aside	\$0.00
Total # of Private Schools Participating	2.00
Total Student Enrollment at the LEA	3,211.00
Total Student Enrollment at ALL Participating Private Schools	20.00

B. Equip school buses with Wi-Fi capabilities to increase internet connectivity and help bridge the digital divide within the LEA.

LEA Allocation for Section B: \$113,589.10

- The LEA will use the allocation above for equipping school buses with Wi-Fi capabilities.
- The LEA will **not** use this allocation for equipping school buses with Wi-Fi capabilities.

Complete the section below only if your LEA chooses not to use this allocation:

Reason/Rationale: Previously purchased MiFi devices for families in need.

We will transfer this allocation to:

- Academic Support to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps of Students (C)
Amount to be transferred: \$31,880.92
- Before and After School Tutoring for Learning and Remediation in Schools (D)
Amount to be transferred: \$81,708.18

C. Provide additional academic support to bridge learning and achievement gaps of students within the LEA.

LEA Allocation for Section C: \$299,462.17

- The LEA will use the allocation above for providing additional academic support to students.
- The LEA will **not** use this allocation for providing additional academic support to students.

Complete the section below only if your LEA chooses not to use this allocation:

Reason/Rationale: _____

We will transfer this allocation to:

- Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities (B)
Amount to be transferred: _____
- Before and After School Tutoring for Learning and Remediation in Schools (D)
Amount to be transferred: _____

D. Provide before and after school tutoring as defined in the Alabama Literacy Act for learning and remediation in schools within the LEA.

LEA Allocation for Section D: \$103,262.82

- The LEA will use the allocation above for providing tutoring to students.
- The LEA will **not** use this allocation for providing tutoring to students.

Complete the section below only if your LEA chooses not to use this allocation:

Reason/Rationale: _____

We will transfer this allocation to:

- Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities (B)
Amount to be transferred: _____
- Academic Support to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps of Students (C)
Amount to be transferred: _____

NOTE: Only answer the questions below that apply to how the LEA will use GEER funds.

2A Equitable Services Assurances

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

- The 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 LEA 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 LEA will ensure that a public agency will have title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with GEER funds.
- The LEA 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.

Provide a brief explanation answering the following questions:

- 1) Were services from private schools accepted or refused in your LEA?
- 2) If services were accepted by private schools, who accepted and what allocation did they receive?
- 3) When did private schools in your LEA receive timely and meaningful consultation?
- 4) What services will each private school receive and when will the services be implemented?
- 5) How will GEER funds be used to improve remote learning services and support technical capacity and access at private schools within your LEA?
- 6) If a private school administrative set-aside is being taken by the LEA, what is the allocation and how will it be used?

Private School was contacted via email. The intent to apply was sent. The Private School indicated they would like to participate. A virtual meeting was scheduled to further discuss the Equitable Service Agreement. During the meeting, the Private School administrators determined their school would not benefit from participating. A follow up email with written explanation of status change was sent to the Federal Programs Director. Documentation of all communication are on file at the Central Office in the Federal Programs Department.

Due to the fact our GEER application had not been approved by September 9, 2020, we were required to contact the private schools outside our district that have students enrolled who reside in our district. Certified mail was sent on October 5, 2020 to the following private schools located outside our district: St. James Catholic School, Coosa Christian School, and Episcopal Day School. Follow up phone calls were made on October 15, 2020. St. James and Episcopal chose to participate. The participating private schools sent a list of students and addresses to determine the number of students eligible. Allocations were calculated based on percent proportions. Private School Implementation plans were emailed to the private school administrators and virtual consultation meetings were scheduled. Consultation meetings were held on October 21, 2020 and plans were made accordingly. St. James was allocated \$2090.34 and plan to purchase access points to expand technology opportunities. Episcopal was allocated \$1125.57 and plan to purchase hover cameras to expand technology opportunities. Etowah County Schools is not taking private school administrative set asides.

2B. Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities

Provide details as to how the LEA will use GEER funds to connect Wi-Fi to district buses.

NA

2C. Additional Academic Supports to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps

Applicable Grade-Level(s) (Check all that apply):

Pre-K K 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th

Applicable Support(s) (Check all that apply):

- Reading/ELA Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources
 - Math Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources
 - Dyscalculia-Specific Screener
 - Dyslexia-Specific Screener
 - Vulnerable Populations Resources or Supports
- ES MS HS

NOTE: Only answer the questions below that apply to supports selected above by the LEA.

Reading and Math Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Aligns to Alabama ELA and/or math course of study standards;
- Provides opportunities to extend learning and build connections at home;
- Reinforces key grade level concepts;
- Includes grade-level appropriate manipulatives for math and literature for reading;
- Provides individual student opportunities for both intervention and enrichment activities; and
- Includes easy-to-follow planning calendars or activity suggestions for families.

NA

Dyscalculia Screener

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Identifies dyscalculic tendencies in students and is not time intensive to administer;
- Recommends intervention strategies;
- Presents easy to interpret reports and information on a student's strengths and weaknesses;
- Provides diagnostic reports for teachers;
- Provides parent reports and guidance; and
- Provide additional opportunities to screen students beyond grade 3.

NA

Dyslexia-Specific Screener

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Aligns to evidence-based science of reading criteria;
- Provides ability and options to universally screen, identify risks, progress monitor, and/or report results in a seamless system;
- Provides recommendations for intervention strategies and/or individualized learning paths to help close achievement gaps; and
- Provides additional opportunities to screen students beyond grade 3 (if applicable).

NA

Vulnerable Populations Supports

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Provides streamlined approach to gather, use, and monitor identified vulnerable population data;
- Includes tools or resources to assist with development and/or implementation of individualized plans for specific needs of students;
- Includes communication tools to ensure meaningful communication in a language understood by the parents/guardians;
- Provides evidence-based learning activities that align to students' plans; and
- Provides other related or applicable services specific to vulnerable populations.

LEA conducted a Needs Assessment Survey with all administrators. Schools evaluated their ACIP critical initiatives to determine the impact of COVID-19 on learning and social emotional welfare of their students. Beginning in August of 2020, Schools have been given the Fall Universal Assessments including STAR Early Literacy, STAR Reading, Scantron Performance Series. Data from these results indicated a need for remediation due to the COVID-19 pandemic that we are currently experiencing. Funds will be allocated to provide for intervention teachers to assist in bridging the learning gap that has occurred due to COVID-19. Intervention teachers will work collaboratively with classroom teachers to identify the needs of individual students and provide the learning support that is needed to make progress. Progress of students will be communicated to families in numerous ways including but not limited to the following: progress reports, report cards, and parent notes/phone calls/emails.

External access points will be purchased for our schools. Our system has already purchased MiFi devices for families needing Internet access. Several of our schools are in rural communities. Therefore, external access points would be more beneficial to our students. This will allow additional Internet access to families who do not have access at home.

2D: Before/After School Tutoring

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Aligns to *Alabama Literacy Act* requirements for students who are identified with a reading deficiency;
- Provides learning opportunities outside of the traditional school day; and
- Includes description of employee duties/responsibilities aligned to intensive intervention needs.

Etowah County Schools plan to provide Summer Literacy Camps at all eleven elementary schools to those students identified with reading deficiencies as defined by the Alabama Literacy Act. The focus will be for students in grades K-3. Plans are begin made to allocated funds for teachers, benefits, materials and supplies as needed to conduct camp during the summer of 2021 and 2022. An instructional aide's salary and benefits are also be budgeted to provide small group intervention as need to assist the teachers at each school. This will help provide intentional targeted instruction for students needing additional instruction. The instructional aide will work under the supervision of a certified teacher.

Individual elementary schools will develop their Summer Literacy Camp plans based on individual school and students' needs.

Individual Student Reading Improvement Plans will be developed based on the individual students' deficiencies. Students will be progress monitored throughout the summer. Instruction will be adjusted as needed and based on the progress of the students.

Camp will be conducted for a minimum of 70 hours during the month of June and/or July as required by the Alabama Literacy Act.

3. Budget Development

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

The LEA will use GEER funds for activities outlined in the application and allowable under Section 18002(c) of Division B of the CARES Act. The United States Department of Education does not expect administrative or executive salaries and benefits for IHEs, SEAs, or the other education related entities referenced at Section 18002(c)(3) to be a lawful purpose for GEER funds.

Total CARES Act - GEER Allocation: **\$519,530.00**
 (NOTE: Make sure to include Equitable Services in the total)

Provide a detailed budget to explain how GEER funds will be used at the LEA as identified by data, needs assessments, and other areas impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

3A. Equitable Services

		Total Section A Allocation	\$3,215.91
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Private School Allocation	See Detailed Narrative in Section 2A	9200 495 4900	\$3,215.91
Private School Admin. Costs	See Detailed Narrative in Section 2A	NA	\$0.00

3B. Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities

		Total Section B Allocation	\$0.00
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Wi-Fi Equipment			
Indirect Costs			
Other (If applicable)			

3C. Additional Academic Supports to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps			
Total Section C Allocation			\$331,343.09
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Salaries	Remediation Teacher - Elementary	1100 011 1200	\$116,848.00
Benefits (If applicable)	Remediation Teacher - Elementary	1100 210-250 1200	\$42,626.00
Classroom Supplies (including print materials)	Classroom Supplies	1100 411 1200	\$4,997.00
Transportation (If applicable)			
Indirect Costs			
Other (If applicable)			
Salaries	Remediation Teacher - Secondary	1100 011 1500	\$93,854.00
Benefits	Remediation Teacher - Secondary	1100 210-250 1500	\$38,006.00
Classroom Supplies	Classroom Supplies	1100 411 1500	\$1,780.09
Wi Fi Equipment	External Access Points	100 495 8840	\$33,232.00

3D. Before/After School Tutoring			
Total Section D Allocation			\$184,971.00
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Salaries	Teachers	1100 199 1200	\$137,443.00
Benefits (If applicable)	Teachers	1100 199 1200	\$27,653.00
Classroom Supplies (including print materials)	Classroom Supplies	1100 411 1200	\$9,304.00
Transportation (If applicable)			
Indirect Costs			
Other (If applicable)			
Salaries	Paraprofessional	1100 101 1200	\$8,800.00
Benefits	Paraprofessional	1100 101 1200	\$1,771.00

How will the LEA plan for implementation and measure impact for effectiveness for purchases identified?

The effectiveness of technology purchases will be measured by monitoring the amount of data utilized on the external access points. Schedules of intervention classes will be reviewed by individual schools to determine the effectiveness and if adjustments need to be made. Student assessments will be reviewed and instructional adjustments will be made as needed. Central Office staff will be meeting with administrators throughout the year to progress monitor the effectiveness of the implementation. School walkthroughs will be conducted by Central Office staff periodically to review individual schools' Continuous Improvement Plans in order to identify strengths and areas of growth for each school. Meetings are scheduled to plan the logistics of providing a Summer Literacy Camp at each of our eleven elementary schools. Principals will meet collectively and individually with Central Office staff to develop an implementation plan for Literacy Summer. Students attending Summer Literacy Camp will be assessed prior to the beginning of camp and at the end of camp. The Summer Literacy Camp pre and post assessment data will be reviewed and the effectiveness will be determined by the progress of individual students.

What is the proposed timeline for providing services and assistance to students and staff?

External access points - November 2020
Intervention teachers - Fall 2020-Spring 2022
Summer Literacy Camps - Summer 2021 and 2022
All services will end prior to September 30, 2022
Private Schools Equitable Services - Fall 2020 - Spring 2021

OTHER ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS

4. Other Assurances and Certifications

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

- The LEA 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 LEA 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 LEA will cooperate with any monitoring policies and/or procedures with regards to the allowability of expenditures.
- The LEA will cooperate with any examination of records with respect to such funds by making records available for inspection, production, and examination, and authorized individuals for interview and examination, upon request.
- The LEA will use GEER funds for purposes that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable under the CARES Act.
- The LEA will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations and assurances; the provisions of 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.

5. Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act Assurances

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

- (a) The purpose of this section is to assist the Department in implementing the Department's mission to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the Nation, by -
- (1) ensuring equal opportunities to participate for all eligible students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries in any project or activity carried out under an applicable program; and
 - (2) promoting the ability of such students, teachers, and beneficiaries to meet high standards.
- (b) The Secretary shall require each applicant for assistance under an applicable program (other than an individual) to develop and describe in such applicant's application the steps such applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and equitable participation in, the project or activity to be conducted with such assistance, by addressing the special needs of students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries in order to overcome barriers to equitable participation, including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age.
- (c) The Secretary may establish criteria and provide technical assistance for meeting the requirements of this section.
- (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter in any way the rights or responsibilities established under the

What steps does the LEA propose 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?

Etowah County Schools will insure there are no barriers to permit students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries from participation. If barriers were to arise, we will work collaboratively with students and parents to ensure they are handled appropriately.

6 Section 442 of the General Education Provisions Act Assurances

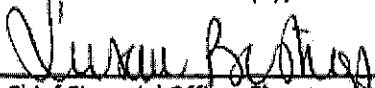
The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:

- (a) Each local educational agency which participates in an applicable program under which Federal funds are made available to such agency through a State agency or board shall submit to such agency or board a general application containing the assurances set forth in subsection (b). The application shall cover the participation by that local educational agency in all such programs.
- (b) The general application submitted by a local education agency under subsection (a) shall set forth assurances
- (1) that the local educational agency will administer each program by the application in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;
 - (2) that the control of funds provided to the local educational agency under each program, and title to property acquired with those funds, will be in a public agency and that a public agency will administer those funds and property;
 - (3) that the local educational agency will use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to that agency under each program;
 - (4) that the local educational agency will make reports to the State agency or board and to the Secretary as may reasonably be necessary to enable the State agency or board and the Secretary to perform their duties and that the local educational agency will maintain such records, including the records required under section 443, and provide access to those records, as the State agency or board or the Secretary deem necessary to perform their duties;
 - (5) that the local educational agency will provide reasonable opportunities for the participation by teachers, parents, and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals in the planning for and operation of each program;
 - (6) that any application, evaluation, periodic program plan or report relating to each program will be made readily available to parents and other members of the general public;
 - (7) that in the case of any project involving construction -
 - (A) the project is not inconsistent with overall State plans for the construction of school facilities, and
 - (B) in developing plans for construction, due consideration will be given to excellence of architecture and design and to compliance with standards prescribed by the Secretary under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in order to ensure that facilities constructed with the use of Federal funds are accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities;
 - (8) that the local educational agency has adopted effective procedures for acquiring and disseminating to teachers and administrators participating in each program significant information from educational research, demonstrations, and similar projects, and for adopting, where appropriate, promising educational practices developed through such projects; and
 - (9) that none of the funds expended under any applicable program will be used to acquire equipment (including computer software) in any instance in which such acquisition results in a direct financial benefit to any organization representing the interests of the purchasing entity or its employees or any affiliate of such an organization.
- (c) A general application submitted under this section shall remain in effect for the duration of the program it covers. The State agencies or boards administering the programs covered by the application shall not require the submission or amendment of such application unless required by changes in Federal or State law or by other significant change in the circumstances affecting an assurance in such application.

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 U.S.C. § 1001, as appropriate.

Susan Bishop

LEA Chief Financial Officer (Typed Name)



LEA Chief Financial Officer Signature

Dr. Alan Cosby

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)



LEA Superintendent Signature

(256) 549-7593

Telephone Number

10/22/2020

Date

(256) 549-7560

Telephone Number

10.22.2020

Date

**Send completed application to CARESapp@alsde.edu.
Upon approval of the application, funds will be released to the LEA.**

ALSDE Internal Use Only

Date Application Received: 10/22/2020

Date ALSDE Approved: 10/27/2020



State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

10-27-2020

Date

Date GEER Funds Released: _____