



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	Lauderdale County School System
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 278
Physical Address	355 County Road 61
City/Town and Zip Code	Florence, AL 35634
Superintendent's Name	Jon Hatton
Contact Person	Willie Joiner
Contact Person Position	Assistant Superintendent
Contact Telephone Number	256-760-1300 Ext 003
Contact Email	willie.joiner@lcschools.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	\$480,099.00
Total LEA Private School Allocation	\$2,534.32
Total LEA Private School Administrative Costs Set-Aside	
Total # of Private Schools Participating	One (1)
Total Student Enrollment at the LEA	7,726
Total Student Enrollment at ALL Participating Private Schools	41

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: \$105,064.23

- 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: _____

We will transfer this allocation to:

- Academic Support to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps of Students (C)
Amount to be transferred: _____
 Before and After School Tutoring for Learning and Remediation in Schools (D)
Amount to be transferred: _____

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

LEA Allocation for Section C: \$276,987.51

- 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: \$95,512.94

- 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?**

The Lauderdale County School System is in cooperation with a private school. LCSS staff are in contact with the principal of the private school via telephone, email, and face-to-face conversation.

Services and assistance provided by this Grant will be completed and the monies obligated no later than September 30, 2022.

1. Services accepted.
2. Principal accepted \$2,534.32 to be used for before/after-school tutoring.
3. Private school was contacted by telephone on July 29, 2020. Met in person with principal on August 3, 2020.
4. Private school will utilize equitable services funds for before/after-school tutoring.
5. Private school will not be using GEER funds for technology.
6. Not Applicable.

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.

Pursuant to self-reporting through an Lauderdale County School System parent/guardian survey, almost thirty (30) percent of LCSS families do not have affordable or accessible Wi-Fi connection. In order to close the achievement gap through assisting Lauderdale County families with Wi-Fi access, the Lauderdale County School System if awarded the GEER funds will connect district buses as follows:

1. Connection for 43 of LCSS route buses for LG-IN2457-W full kits, installation, Essentials Plan products, and IBR900 routers with WiFi (1000Mbps modems) plus installation at a total estimated cost of \$62,698.95.
2. Connection for 12 of LCSS route buses for a 3-year NetCloud Mobile Essentials Plan, IBR1700 routers with WiFi (1200 Mbps modems), LG-IN2443-W, LG0IN2457, 2nd LTE Advanced Pro (1200Mbps) modems, and installation at a total estimated cost of \$42,365.28.

If awarded the GEER funds, LCSS will complete and obligated the monies no later than September 30, 2022.

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

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

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

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Reading/ELA Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Math Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dyscalculia-Specific Screener |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dyslexia-Specific Screener |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Vulnerable Populations Resources or Supports |
| | ES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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.

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.

In the Lauderdale County School System, the STAR assessment will be given to all K-3 students. The assessment will be used to identify those students who exhibit a particular deficit in the areas of numeracy which specifically includes numeral recognition, quantity comparison, addition to 10, addition to 20, subtraction to 10, mixed addition and subtraction, and multiplication to 100. Specific student learning deficits will be determined by the CBMs identified in this STAR program. Freckle, another learning/assessment program will be used to guide the teachers in developing a learning path for each child. Detailed progress reports will be available for teachers, school administrators, and parents. This program can be expanded to include students beyond grade 3.

If LCSS is awarded the GEER funds, the plan will be completed or the funds obligated no later than September 30, 2022.

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).

The Lauderdale County School System will use the STAR assessment with all K-3 students. This screening tool is used to identify those students who exhibit a particular deficit in the areas of nonsense words, phonemic segmentation, and fluency. Specific learning deficits will be determined by the CBMs used by this program. Freckle, another learning/assessment tool will be used to guide teachers in developing a specific learning path for students. Programs such as Reading Horizons will be used in small group instruction to further close the achievement gap for learners. Detailed reports will be available for teachers, school administrators, and parents. These programs can be used for students beyond grade 3.

If the LCSS is awarded the GEER funds, the project will be completed or funds obligated no later than September 30, 2022.

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.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Lauderdale County's overall poverty rate is 15.2 percent. Nineteen percent of children under 18 live in poverty in our county—almost one-in-four of all LCSS students live in poverty. Poverty alone becomes a barrier to learning for our children because poverty grows from underlying problems.

Between 2018 and 2019, 45 of Alabama's 67 counties experienced population loss. With individuals and families leaving Alabama coupled with generational poverty, teaching and learning face uphill battles—battles worth addressing and winning.

Meeting the needs of under-served and vulnerable populations of poverty, health issues, and other related family issues, the Lauderdale County School System is committed to identifying and meeting the needs of our students. Evidenced-based program tools will be used to mitigate learning problems and removing barriers. Our current free/reduced population is approximately 50 percent of current enrollment. Additionally, at least 25 percent, or more of our families and staff do not have access to reliable and consistent WiFi Internet service. GEER funds will allow the LCSS to expand these opportunities for at-risk students, including homeless, English-language learners, Migrant, or Indian Education students, as well as those students with a 504 Plan or receive special education services through an Individualized Learning Plan (IEP)

If the GEER funds are awarded, the LCSS will have completed the program or obligated the funds on or before September 30, 2022.

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.

Aligning learning to the Alabama Literacy Act, the Lauderdale County School System continues to expand the before and after-school tutoring offered to our students. Removing learning barriers is a goal of the LCSS Board of Education and Administration. The BOE goals and objectives are aligned to student learning, specifically meeting the instructional and learning needs of students in K-3, learning to read so that later, students can read to learn.

Intervention specialists at LCSS schools will be responsible for meeting the identified intervention needs using technology tools for instruction, to model data, and communicate with our parents and all stakeholders. The data will also be used to monitor and document progress and for making needed changes. Student data will direct the intervention plans for the K-3 population.

If the GEER funds are awarded, the LCSS will have completed the program or obligated the funds on or before September 30, 2022.

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: **\$480,099.00**
 (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
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 699 4900	\$2,534.32
Private School Admin. Costs	See Detailed Narrative in Section 2A		

3B. Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities

			Total Section B Allocation
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Wi-Fi Equipment	Installation of Wi-Fi on buses	1100 495 8100	\$105,064.23
Indirect Costs			
Other (If applicable)			

3C. Additional Academic Supports to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps			
Total Section C Allocation			\$276,987.51
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Salaries			
Benefits (If applicable)			
Classroom Supplies (Including print materials)			
Transportation (If applicable)			
Indirect Costs			
Other (If applicable)	Educational Software	1100 414 8100	\$276,987.51

3D. Before/After School Tutoring			
Total Section D Allocation			\$95,512.94
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Salaries	Tutoring	9130 199 4600	\$79,567.59
Benefits (If applicable)	Retirement, Soc.Sec., Medicare, U.C.	9130 220-250 4600	\$15,945.35
Classroom Supplies (Including print materials)			
Transportation (If applicable)			
Indirect Costs			
Other (If applicable)			

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

The Lauderdale County School System will begin implementation of all program areas once funding is approved. The identified programs support data collection and transparent reporting. The measurable objectives of each program align with the BOE's strategic plan goals/objectives and are reportable by the administration.

If the GEER funds are awarded, the LCSS will have completed the program or obligated the funds on or before September 30, 2022.

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

The Lauderdale County School System will begin providing services to students and staff immediately upon the award of the grant.

If the GEER funds are awarded, the LCSS will have completed the program or obligated the funds on or before September 30, 2022.

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?

The Lauderdale County Board of Education adopted a 2019-2024 Strategic Plan, which includes goals and action steps to provide high-quality, equitable educational opportunities to its students. In the summer of 2020, during the COVID-19 response, LCSS conducted a parent/family return-to-school survey, which asked specifically:

- Demographic information—schools and grade levels children in a family attend?
- Internet accessibility—availability and if no, reason(s)?
- Device convenience—which computers or personal learning devices does your household own?
- Educational desires—will you send your child(ren) to traditional school this fall?
- Open-ended response—What suggestions or concerns would you like to share?

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world, LCSS began to address student learning and teaching in new ways. Online learning plans were written and systemic needs addressed, including the need for more Internet capabilities for families and staff dispersed throughout the county, and technology equipment needs.

If the GEER funds are awarded, the LCSS will have completed the program or obligated the funds on or before September 30, 2022.

If any stakeholder has a barrier arise, we will handle as quickly as possible.

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.

Mike Hall
LEA Chief Financial Officer (Typed Name)

(256) 760-1322
Telephone Number

Mike Hall
LEA Chief Financial Officer Signature

8/4/2020
Date

Jon Hatton
LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

256-760-1300
Telephone Number

Jon Hatton
LEA Superintendent Signature

256-760-1300
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: 8/4/2020

Date ALSDE Approved: 8/7/2020

[Signature]
State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

08/07/2020
Date

Date GEER Funds Released: _____