



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	Monroe County Board of Education
Mailing Address	109 Pickens Street
Physical Address	109 Pickens Street
City/Town and Zip Code	Monroeville, AL 36460
Superintendent's Name	Greg Shehan
Contact Person	Greg Shehan
Contact Person Position	Superintendent
Contact Telephone Number	251-743-2153
Contact Email	gshehan@monroe.k12.al.us

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	\$233,995
Total LEA Private School Allocation	\$24,950.48
Total LEA Private School Administrative Costs Set-Aside	\$2,495.04
Total # of Private Schools Participating	1
Total Student Enrollment at the LEA	3,100
Total Student Enrollment at ALL Participating Private Schools	370

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: \$45,989.80

- 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: \$121,245.82

- 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 \$56,811.64 to finish WiFi on the buses. We will use the remaining allocation to bridge learning gaps

We will transfer this allocation to:

- Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities (B)

Amount to be transferred: \$52,560.96

- Before and After School Tutoring for Learning and Remediation in Schools (D)

Amount to be transferred: \$4,250.68

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: \$41,808.90

- 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.

LEA 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?**

Services from private school was accepted in our LEA. Monroe Academy is the private school in our LEA and they were allotted \$24,950.48. They were given meaningful consultation on August 3, 2020. They have no school buses for transportation, therefore, they will use this allotted amount to promote remote learning services and support technical capacity by purchasing equipment. Our district will use the set-aside to purchase the following materials and supplies for the private school administrative: toner, ink, copy paper, and printer. The district administrative set-aside amount is \$2,495.04.

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.**

The Monroe County Board of Education will use GEER funds to place Wi-Fi in every bus. We will place these buses throughout our communities to be used as hot spots. Parents will be able to use these hot spots for their students to complete their virtual school assignments. Once we return to traditional school, students will be able to use the Wi-Fi on our buses to complete homework as they travel home. All funds will be expended by 09/2022.

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):

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Reading/ELA Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Math Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dyscalculia-Specific Screener | | | |
| <input 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.

N/A

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.

N/A

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).

N/A

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.**

Professional development for teachers on intervention strategies in ELA and mathematics will be provided through the use of this fund so they can provide grade appropriate manipulatives in math and reading in order to assist students and their families in accelerating their literacy and math skills. Since the school district is using the funds to provide internet accessibility and Chromebooks/ laptops for every student, teachers will be able to meet with their students on an individual basis for additional enrichment activities to increase their math and literacy skills. The teachers will provide the students and parents a calendar of activities for each week that will align to the course of study for math and ELA standards. The district will use the funds to promote educational equity for our vulnerable population of special education students and low-income students by purchasing Hot Spots to be placed on our buses. The buses will be strategically placed within the communities the students reside and zoned for school in order to provide Internet access for every student. Data, such as reduced and free lunch count and special education enrollment, will be collected from INOW and used to identify our vulnerable population. The teachers will communicate with the parents on an individual basis via Google Meet or Zoom to implement an individualized learning plan and provide instruction and enrichment activities so they can address the needs of our special education population. Since the district is using remote learning, the special education teachers will meet virtually with the student and classroom teacher to discuss class and homework assignments that are being implemented based on the student's Individualized Education Plan. All funds will be expended by 09/2022.

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.**

The district will use the funds to purchase Hot Spots on buses in order to provide Internet access to our students and families to decrease any barriers to learning remotely. The Alabama Literacy Act requires additional support for students in Grade 3 who have been identified as having a reading deficiency. After school tutoring will be provided for students via remotely through the use of Zoom or Google Meet to provide intervention lessons and review for comprehension and academic growth in reading literacy. Reading coaches and teachers will meet the parents and students independently via the Internet to set and discuss intervention strategies, set up a schedule for after school tutoring, and prepare an individualized learning plan to address the needs of the child. The reading coaches and problem solving teams (PBST) responsibilities and duties will be as follows: meet weekly with the teachers and administrators to discuss the intervention and literacy strategies that need to be implemented for each student who has been identified as having a reading deficiency and required to attend after school tutoring; assist the after school teacher with intervention strategies to be used with the students, meet once a week via the Internet through Zoom or Google Meet on an individualized or group with the students who have been identified as having a reading deficiency, and provide reading material and enrichment literacy lessons via the Internet to families of students who have been identified as having a reading deficiency so they can assist at home as well. All funds will be expended by 09/2022.

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: (NOTE: Make sure to include Equitable Services in the total)	\$233,995
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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	\$24,950.48
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 - 491 - 4900	\$22,455.44	
Private School Admin. Costs	See Detailed Narrative in Section 2A	9200 - 910 - 4900	\$2,495.04	

3B. Equipping School Buses with WI-FI Capabilities

			Total Section B Allocation	\$98,550.76
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount	
Wi-Fi Equipment	Smartbus Mobile Router and Installation Kit	1100 - 495 - 8100	\$73,549.00	
Indirect Costs				
Other (if applicable)	Custom 5GB Data Plan	1100 - 495 - 8100	\$25,001.76	

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

The LEA met with the district level advisory team to discuss the needs of the district and how to utilize the funds. The LEA will utilize surveys via the Internet as a method to collect data from parents to measure the impact of how the Hot Spots on the buses were beneficial to the students and parents that did not initially have Internet access at home prior to the buses being placed in the communities in which the parents and students reside. The LEA will share the evaluation results with the stakeholders to encourage discussion and further steps for action. The technology department will conduct weekly checks on Hot Spots for connectivity issues to make sure that students are able to connect to the Internet. Surveys sent to stakeholders will also check the effectiveness of the technology issued to the students. Data will be collected on students who attended tutoring to monitor the effectiveness of the after school tutoring. Teachers will be allowed to give feedback on the effectiveness of professional development that was provided to them for intervention strategies and the use of technology. All funds will be expended by 09/2022.

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

The LEA will provide services and assistance to students and staff for the entire 2020/2021 academic year. All funds will be expended by 09/2022.

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?

Program Type: Education Technology

The LEA will use the funds to purchase Hot Spots to be placed on buses and increase Internet access points. The buses will be strategically parked in various areas and communities in which our schools are located. Due to the fact that a significant portion of our students are at or below poverty level in our district, we will place these Hot Spots in areas to assist families who cannot afford Internet access in their homes. Funds will be used to provide technical support to our teaching staff and students. This includes, but not limited to, Chromebooks, laptops, software, and networking for all students. The LEA will use funds to provide after school tutoring for any students who have a deficiency in reading and math. Teachers will be provided professional development to overcome any barriers concerning the use of technology and intervention strategies. We are committed to ensuring all students and teachers have all technology, tutoring, and professional development available to them regardless of gender, race, color, national origin, disability, or age. If any barriers arise, we will handle it as quickly as possible. All funds will be expended by 09/2022.

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.

Lizzie Ingram

251-743-2153

LEA Chief Financial Officer (Typed Name)

Telephone Number

Lizzie Ingram

8/28/2020

LEA Chief Financial Officer Signature

Date

Greg Shehan

251-743-2153

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

Telephone Number

Greg Shehan

8/28/2020

LEA Superintendent Signature

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: 8/26/2020

Date ALSDE Approved: 8/31/2020

[Signature]

State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

Date

08/31/2020

Date GEER Funds Released: _____