



**State of Alabama**  
**Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**  
**Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)**  
**Local Educational Agency (LEA) Application**

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

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>1. LEA Information</b>	
LEA Name	Blount County Board of Education
Mailing Address	P O Box 578
Physical Address	204 2nd Avenue East
City/Town and Zip Code	Oneonta, AL 35121
Superintendent's Name	Rodney P. Green
Contact Person	Craig Sosebee
Contact Person Position	Federal Programs Coordinator
Contact Telephone Number	(205) 775-1950
Contact Email	cwsosebee@blountbos.net

**PROGRAMMATIC, FISCAL, AND REPORTING ASSURANCES**

The United States Department of Education (USED) has approved the application from the State of Alabama for ESSER funds under the CARES Act. The availability of funds is from 4/29/2020 to 4/29/2021. LEAs will be allowed to expend funds until 9/30/2022. Pre-award costs to the ESSER fund will be allowed for allowable cost incurred on or after March 13, 2020.

**2. Allowable Service(s) Assurance**

*The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies that:*  
 The LEA will use ESSER funds for activities allowable under section 18003(d) of Division B of the CARES Act. The United States Department of Education does not consider the following to be an allowable use of ESSER funds, under any part of 18003: 1) subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the SEA or LEAs or 2) expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations.

**How will the LEA determine the most important educational needs as a result of COVID-19?**

Blount County Schools conducted multiple surveys to gather input from parents, community stakeholders, teachers and administrators. After this data was gathered, we developed a survey analysis and presented to a collaborative team. This team met on multiple occasions to identify the priorities for these funds and then to begin getting a first draft of the budget prepared. With collaborative input, the draft became more firm and was discussed with the Blount County Board of Education for input.

**How does the LEA intend to assess and address student learning gaps resulting from the disruption in educational services?**

Blount County Schools is planning to use Aimsweb to assess our students upon the opening of the school year to identify current student proficiency. School leadership teams, as well as, Problem Solving Teams, Grade level teams and individual teachers will review this data along with the same student's data from the previous year to identify learning gaps for each individual student. Each school will begin to organize their students to receive targeted learning supports depending on the specific needs of each child.

Which allowable activities will the LEA use ESSER funds to provide educational services? (Select all that apply)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Activities authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activities authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activities authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activities authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Activities authorized by subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local education agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of the individual schools.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including building operated by such agency.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including for how to provide meals to eligible students, how to provide technology for online learning to all students, how to provide guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 USC 1401 et seq.) and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Providing mental health services and supports.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

Provide a detailed budget to explain how ESSER funds will be used in your LEA.				
CARES Act ESSER Funds				
FUND SOURCE CODE 4290				
Function	Object	Program	Amount	Brief Description of Expenditure
1100	134	4600	\$50,000.00	After School Intervention Teachers
1100	220	4600	\$6,180.00	Retirement
1100	230	4600	\$3,100.00	Social Security
1100	240	4600	\$725.00	Medicare
1100	250	4600	\$5.00	Unemployment
1100	491	2,900	\$240,000.00	Chromebooks with modems
1100	491	1200	\$40,000.00	Chromebooks
1100	491	1500	\$40,000.00	Chromebooks
1100	411	1200	\$50,000.00	Instructional Supplies allocated to local schools
2140	489	8210	\$207,442.35	Health and safety supplies
				See attachment for additional lines

function	object	program	Amount	Brief Description of Expenditure
2210	084	1810	194,721.00	Reading Coaches (additional and overages for 2 years)
2210	210	1810	15,936.00	Insurance
2210	220	1810	24,068.00	Retirement
2210	230	1810	12,073.00	Social Security
2210	240	1810	2,823.00	Medicare
2210	250	1810	20.00	Unemployment
2140	121	8210	79,558.00	Float School Nurse (2 years)
2140	121	8210	79,558.00	BCCTC Nurse (2 years)
2140	210	8210	38,400.00	Insurance
2140	220	8210	17,853.00	Retirement
2140	230	8210	9,865.00	Social Security
2140	240	8210	2,307.00	Medicare
2140	250	8210	16.00	Unemployment
2220	141	8220	86,394.00	Technology Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper (2 years)
2220	139	8220	109,636.00	Technology Technician (2 years)
2220	210	8220	38,400.00	Insurance
2220	220	8220	24,223.00	Retirement
2220	230	8220	12,154.00	Social Security
2220	240	8220	2,842.00	Medicare
2220	250	8220	19.00	Unemployment
4120	339	8410	24,000.00	bus hotspots (Kajeet - 14 buses for 12 mo; hardware & date)
4120	489	8410	6,922.65	bus health and safety supplies
3200	171	8320	74,308.00	contracted hourly custodian support for each school based on adm
3200	230	8320	4,607.00	Social Security
3200	240	8320	1,077.00	Medicare
3200	250	8320	8.00	Unemployment
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,499,247.00</b>	

**What is the LEA's proposed timeline for providing services and assistance to students and staff?**

Blount County Schools began providing services on April 29, 2020 and will continue providing services and assistance through the availability of the CARES Act ESSER Funding grant of September 30, 2022.

**How will the LEA use ESSER funds to promote remote learning?**

Utilizing the information we received from parents about the limited availability of devices adequate to support distance learning and the lack of adequate Internet service, we prioritized these two areas in our budget. Remote learning will be promoted by the purchase of additional devices, equipment to enable buses to create wifi zones in targeted areas, and professional development for teachers on effective use of learning management systems.

**3. Equitable Services Assurances**

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

- The LEA receiving ESSER funds will provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under Section 18005 of Division B of the CARES Act.
- The LEA receiving ESSER 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 it will maintain control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school
- The LEA will ensure that it will have title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with ESSER funds.
- The LEA will ensure that services to a non-public school with ESSER funds will be provided by the LEA directly, or through contract with, another public or private entity.

**Provide a brief explanation of the following: How will equitable service funds be used by the private schools? How will timely and meaningful consultation occur with private schools? What is the proposed timeline for services and assistance to be implemented by private schools?**

After timely contacting by letter and phone, the private schools have decided to not participate.

**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 ESSER funds will, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to compensate 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. In addition, LEAs that accept funds will continue to pay employees and contractors to the greatest extent practicable based on the unique financial circumstances of the LEA. CARES Act funds generally will not be used for bonuses, merit pay, or similar expenditures, unless related to disruptions or closures resulting from COVID-19.
- The LEA will request technical assistance on the use of ESSER funds for remote learning, which includes both distance education as defined in Section 103(7) of the HEA and distance learning as defined in ESEA Section 8101(14), so that students can continue learning during school closures.
- The LEA will cooperate with any SEA monitoring policies and/or procedures with regards to the allowability of expenditures.
- The LEA will use ESSER funds for purposes that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable under the CARES Act.

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

- The LEA will provide to the SEA the methodology used to provide services or assistance to students and staff in both public and non-public schools, the uses of funds 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.
- 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 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 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 Guidance in 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR Part 3474.

#### **5. 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.

**6. Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act Assurances**

(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 laws cited in section 400(d) of this Act.

**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?**

It shall be the policy of the Board that the school district shall place an equal emphasis on the nondiscriminatory provision of educational opportunities for children and no person shall be denied the benefits of any education program or activity on the basis of race, color, disability, creed, national origin, religion, age or sex. All programs offered by schools within the school district shall be open to all students in compliance with statutory and judicial requirements. The Blount County Board of Education provides a variety of support services and opportunities for its students. Among them are Special Education, At-Risk Student Support, and Problem Solving Team (PST). The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies, Title IX, and Section 504: Gary Noles Blount County Board of Education P. O. Box 578 Oneonta, AL 35121 (205) 775-1950

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.

Cindy W. Parker

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)

*Cindy W Parker*

LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Rodney P. Green

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

*Rodney P. Green*

LEA Superintendent Signature

(205) 775-1950

Telephone Number

06/17/2020

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

(205) 775-1950

Telephone Number

06/17/2020

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

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: 6/18/2020

Date ALSDE Approved: 6/18/2020

*David [Signature]*  
State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

06/18/2020  
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: \_\_\_\_\_