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

1. LEA Information

LEA Name	Gadsden City
Mailing Address	PO Box 184 Gadsden, Al 35902
Physical Address	1026 Chestnut Street Gadsden, Al 35901
City/Town and Zip Code	
Superintendent's Name	Tony Reddick
Contact Person	Cory Skelton
Contact Person Position	CSFO
Contact Telephone Number	256-549-2905
Contact Email	cskelton@gadsdencityschools.org

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?

District school administrators were polled for input on needs they have encountered during the COVID19 season. Additionally, an up to date review of available school student devices was conducted. Following this, a meeting of district staff (directors and coordinators) was held to review the identified needs for schools and the district and develop a prioritized list of expenditures for CARES Act Funding. Gadsden City Schools will utilize CARES Act funding to ensure all students will receive equitable, quality instruction in the school classrooms and/or virtually using one to one devices, several on-line instructional platforms and assessment tools purchased by the district. There will also be 2 social workers, 2 mental health workers and 2 reading coaches to address the gaps resulting from COVID-19.

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

Gadsden City Schools will utilize a day one diagnostic to assess learning gaps for all students. Once the data has been collected and reviewed teachers will develop lesson plans designed to remediate critical standards not mastered by all or most students during whole group instruction for the first 3 to 6 weeks of the school year. For students who continue to show learning gaps following initial review and remediation, RtI tier II and tier III intervention groups will be established at each school's grade level data meetings and a plan of action will be formulated for each student failing to meet proficiency standards on benchmark assessments. All schools will continue to conduct monthly data meetings and provide ongoing progress monitoring using DIBELS, STAR Renaissance, USA Test Prep, and other benchmark assessments to track student progress and provide ongoing small group and one to one intervention using evidenced based instructional resources to bridge the learning gaps.

Which allowable activities will the LEA use ESSER funds to provide educational services? (Select all that apply)	
✓	Activities authorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
✓	Activities authorized by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
✓	Activities authorized by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.
✓	Activities authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.
✓	Activities authorized by subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
✓	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.
✓	Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of the individual schools.
✓	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.
✓	Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.
✓	Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
✓	Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including building operated by such agency.
✓	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.
✓	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.
✓	Providing mental health services and supports.
✓	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.
✓	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
				ATTACHED

Function	Object	Program	Amount	Description
1100	419	8210	30,478.00	Instructional packets
2210	495	8220	379,000.00	chromebooks (2,567)
1100	414	8100	102,000.00	IXL - all grades - 2 years
1100	414	8210	66,000.00	USA Test Prep - all grades - 2 years
1100	414	1500	38,000.00	Edgenuity - Highschool - 2 years
1100	414	8100	360,420.82	Renaissance (K-8) 2 years
2190	413	8210	11,000.00	Prof. training videos for parents and students
2210	495	8220	173,460.02	3 private schools chromebooks
1100	199	1200	164,948.00	6 afterschool programs salaries
1100	220	1200	20,388.00	retirement for above
1100	230	1200	10,227.00	SSI for above
1100	240	1200	2,392.00	MC for above
1100	250	1200	82.00	SUI for above
2140	489	8210	6,000.00	Face shields and supplies for school nurses
2190	083	1851	59,137.00	Salary for EL Teacher
2190	210	1851	4,800.00	benefits for EL teacher
2190	220	1851	7,309.00	benefits for EL teacher
2190	230	1851	3,666.00	benefits for EL teacher
2190	240	1851	857.00	benefits for EL teacher
2190	250	1851	30.00	benefits for EL teacher
3400	442	8340	45,000.00	Sanitizing misters for the schools
2150	122	8210	75,000.00	2 social workers
2150	210	8210	19,200.00	benefits for above
2150	220	8210	9,270.00	benefits for above
2150	230	8210	4,650.00	benefits for above
2150	240	8210	1,087.50	benefits for above
2150	250	8210	37.50	benefits for above
2120	041	8210	40,000.00	2 mental health
2120	210	8210	19,200.00	benefits for above
2120	220	8210	4,944.00	benefits for above
2120	230	8210	2,480.00	benefits for above
2120	240	8210	580.00	benefits for above
2120	250	8210	20.00	benefits for above
2290	084	8220	88,427.00	2 reading coaches
2290	210	8220	19,200.00	benefits for above
2290	220	8220	10,930.00	benefits for above
2290	230	8220	5,482.00	benefits for above
2290	240	8220	1,282.00	benefits for above
2290	250	8220	44.00	benefits for above
2310	479	8230	1,500.00	20 locking rolling carts for counselors
1100	414	8210	13,000.00	Lexia for all 12 schools (SPED)
1100	414	8210	11,466.00	GENIINI (SPED)
1100	414	8210	4,500.00	Lamp Words for Life (SPED)
1100	419	8210	2,400.00	Sensory Home Kits (SPED)
1100	414	1500	574.00	NEWS2U (SPED)
2210	495	8220	4,185.00	15 ipads (SPED)

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

Plans are for student devices and needed home access to be available for students in the Fall of 2020. Social workers and supplemental counselors, additional ESL teacher, and reading coaches will also be available Fall, 2020. Instructional software will be available immediately. Cleaning supplies and devices will be available Fall, 2020, depending on availability. Special education specific adaptable devices and supplies will be available Fall, 2020. All expenditures will be expended by September 30, 2022.

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

Key expenditure items that specifically address remote learning include one to one student devices that will facilitate a virtual learning environment for all students, K-12, in Gadsden City Schools, instructional software, and Special Education devices.

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?

Meaningful conversations with the three private schools located in the Gadsden City School District were conducted live, via a phone call and through Google Meet.
Equitable service funds will be used by the private schools to:
- Purchase cleaning and disinfecting supplies for the schools.
- Purchase PPE supplies for school staff
- Chrome books for students to accommodate school attendance choice
- Laptops for students to accommodate school attendance choice
- Instructional materials aimed at addressing student needs brought on by school closure

Proposed timeline for services and assistance implementation is March 16, 2020 through September 30, 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 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?

Several budget items are included to address overcoming barriers. These include devices for all students, home internet access for those without it, an additional ESL teacher to support that population, Special Education adaptive devices and equipment and related services to support our special education students. In addition, counseling support will assist with outreach to our at-risk student population and those struggling with loss and emotional distress resulting from the effects of COVID19. If any other barriers arise in our district they will be addressed immediately.

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.

Cory Skelton

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)

256-549-2905

Telephone Number

Cory Skelton

LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

06/29/2020

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Tony Reddick

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

256-549-2905

Telephone Number

Tony Reddick

LEA Superintendent Signature

06/29/2020

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: 6/25/2020

Date ALSDE Approved: 6/30/2020

State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

06/30/2020

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____