



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	Russell County
Mailing Address	Post Office Box 400
Physical Address	506 14th Street
City/Town and Zip Code	Phenix City, AL 36867
Superintendent's Name	Brenda Coley, Ed.D.
Contact Person	Mesha Patrick, Ed.D.
Contact Person Position	Federal Programs
Contact Telephone Number	(334) 408-4947
Contact Email	patricka@russellcsd.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?

Russell County convened a committee of representatives from finance, transportation, maintenance, instruction, school counselling, special education services, federal programs, and school leadership. The committee discussed effects of COVID -19 disruption to education, identified needs and impact, assessing the learning gap, remote learning, social emotional support, and sanitation of the facilities. Survey results from stakeholders were also used to gather information. From these meetings, a needs assessment was created.

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

The eight essential standards will be assessed using I Ready for early literacy and math foundational skills for K-8 and Class Works for 6-12. Information gained will be used to provide tiered and individualized instruction. Instructional strategies that will be used are increased instructional time, evident based intervention curriculum, progress monitoring, deepen professional development for teachers, and teaching students through their preferred learning style.

Function	Object	Program	Amount	Description
1100	495	8100	715,000.00	Chromebooks, carts and hotspots for students
1100	192	8100	20,000.00	Stipends - Special Ed services
1100	220	8100	2,486.00	Retirement
1100	230	8100	1,240.00	Soc Sec
1100	240	8100	290.00	Medicare
1100	250	8100	16.00	UCI
1100	333	8100	133,915.00	Instructional support software
2215	312	8220	18,965.00	Professional development for instructional software
2290	622	8220	15,000.00	Software licensing
2290	139	8220	44,021.00	Technology personnel
2290	210	8220	10,400.00	Insurance
2290	220	8220	5,472.00	Retirement
2290	230	8220	2,729.00	Soc Sec
2290	240	8220	638.00	Medicare
2290	250	8220	35.00	UCI
3200	449	8320	207,224.00	Cleaning supplies and PPE
3900	369	8390	72,000.00	Hotspot activation and service
4210	463	8420	25,000.00	Child Nutrition supplies
6450	394	8640	2,320.00	Digital resources (converting textbooks to digital format)

Total Exp: 1,276,751.00

Allocation: 1,276,751.00

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

June 2020- Develop and implement procedures to improve preparedness and response efforts ;Purchase supplies to sanitized and clean facilities (on-going);Provide training and professional development for sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious disease (on-going)
July 2020- Provide professional development for instruction teachers and professionals -quarterly;Purchase of equipment and materials for remote learning (purchase and repair as needed after initial purchase);Hire additional school counselors for social emotional support; Hire Intervention support Purchase instructional materials needed to provide intervention
August 2020 Provide training for students and parents on remote learning and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases ;School Counselors make follow up contact with students who were experiencing social maladjustments during the separation. (monthly)
December 2020- July 2021 Assess the Impact of the purchases and trainings
May 2021 Assess the impact of the purchases and learning
This cycle will repeat as needed through September 30, 2022.

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

These funds will ensure that all students have access to an electronic device. It will also be used to assist with providing Internet accessibility to students. Professional development will be provided for teachers, parents, and students to maximize learning.

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?

Private schools were contacted by email and followed by a phone call to notify them of the opportunity to receive federal funds. If the LEA failed to reach the school by phone or email, LEA personnel traveled to school. Schools were requested to complete the intent form to document their response. If the school responded affirmatively, a consultation meeting would be scheduled at the convenience of both LEA and private school to discuss the use of funds. In our case, the private schools did not wish to accept the additional funding.

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?

Russell County will make materials and services accessible to all beneficiaries to the greatest extent possible. Needs assessment results will allow RCSD to create a focused plan of action. If accessibility to technology is a barrier, school buses with wifi capabilities will be deployed in those areas and in some cases hot spots will be given. When necessary, translation services will be provided for English Language Learners.

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.

Cody Patterson

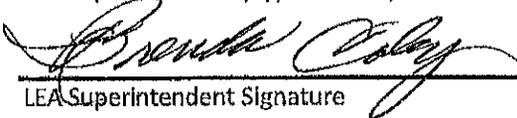
LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)



LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Brenda Coley

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)



LEA Superintendent Signature

334-468-5544

Telephone Number

07/07/2020

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

334-468-5540

Telephone Number

07/07/2020

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: 7/7/2020

Date ALSDE Approved: 7/9/2020


State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

07-09/2020
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____