



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	Opelka City Schools
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 2469
Physical Address	300 Simmons Street
City/Town and Zip Code	Opelka, AL 36801
Superintendent's Name	Mark Neighbors
Contact Person	Chris Harrison
Contact Person Position	CSFO
Contact Telephone Number	(334) 745-9700
Contact Email	chris.harrison@opelkaschools.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?

In response to the COVID shutdown, the OCS Leadership Team which includes administrators, principals, instructional coaches and teachers began meeting and continue to meet on a regular basis to determine the educational needs of our system as well as how to best meet the needs of our students and employees factoring in the amount of learning that was lost during the shutdown. The leadership team identified the following needs: instructional software/tech supplies, classroom instructional supplies, cleaning and sanitation supplies, personnel costs relating to instructional planning for distance learning, personnel cost related to distribution of technology and instructional supplies to students, personnel costs related to CNP cleaning and sanitation, and professional development on distance learning and cleaning and sanitation procedures.

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

Learning gaps will be assessed using AlmswebPlus for grades K-3 and Scantron for grades 4-12. Additionally, teachers will administer formative and summative assessments. Information gained from these assessments will determine the instructional needs of each student and those needs will be met accordingly using differentiated instruction. Instructional coaches have met to revise the pacing guides, front-loading missed standards. Teachers will monitor student work both on-line and in person. The district will move to a 2:1 initiative, providing two devices for each student; one at home and one in the classroom. This will allow for a minimum disruption in the event of future shutdowns.

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 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
				Description of Expenditures Attached

CARES Act Budget

Personnel (Developing Instr Plans - Distance Learning - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Developing Instr Plans - Distance Learning - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Developing Instr Plans - Distance Learning - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Developing Instr Plans - Distance Learning - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Developing Instr Plans - Distance Learning - o/s contract hours)
 Classroom Supplies (Zaner-Bloser Ed Publishers - hand writing program)
 Instructional Software (Distance Learning App / Videos)
 Other Instructional Supplies (Special face masks for Band/Choral Programs)
 Other Books / Periodicals
 Other Books / Periodicals
 Other Books / Periodicals (AP English book for APEX virtual student)
 Tech Supplies (Chromebooks)
 Personnel (chromebook distribution to students - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (chromebook distribution to students - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (chromebook distribution to students - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (chromebook distribution to students - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (chromebook distribution to students - o/s contract hours)
 Postage (mailing of virtual report cards)
 Maintenance Supplies (sanitation)
 Other Maint & Operations (Protector Series Glass Aluminum Desktop Divider)
 Operation Supplies (Cleaning & Sanitation)
 Fuel - Gasoline (mileage to pick up PPE from vendor)
 Personnel (Transportation - Sanitizing buses - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Transportation - Sanitizing buses - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Transportation - Sanitizing buses - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Transportation - Sanitizing buses - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Transportation - Sanitizing buses - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Cafeteria workers cleaning and sanitation - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Cafeteria workers cleaning and sanitation - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Cafeteria workers cleaning and sanitation - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Cafeteria workers cleaning and sanitation - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (Cafeteria workers cleaning and sanitation - o/s contract hours)
 Other General Supplies (Cardboard boxes - moving meals to virtual meal pickup location)
 Other Non-Instructional Supplies (folding tables to social distance students @ lunch)
 Other General Supplies (signage @ football stadium to wear masks & social distance)
 Tech Purchased Services (no contact software)
 Office Supplies (Printing costs information to parents regarding virtual / in-person school)
 Personnel (distribution of virtual supply bags, registrations, COVID delay - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (distribution of virtual supply bags, registrations, COVID delay - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (distribution of virtual supply bags, registrations, COVID delay - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (distribution of virtual supply bags, registrations, COVID delay - o/s contract hours)
 Personnel (distribution of virtual supply bags, registrations, COVID delay - o/s contract hours)
 Community Education/Data Processing - Chromebooks
 Non-Public School Programs (additional cleaning company services)
 Non-Public School Programs (Tech Supplies)

Function	Object	Program	
1100	199	8100	438,211
1100	220	8100	38,852
1100	230	8100	26,388
1100	240	8100	6,173
1100	250	8100	88
1100	411	8100	26,548
1100	414	8100	29
1100	419	4400	5,863
1100	429	1100	290
1100	429	1200	8,777
1100	429	1500	719
1100	472	8100	563,632
2190	199	8210	10,961
2190	220	8210	1,322
2190	230	8210	654
2190	240	8210	153
2190	250	8210	2
2190	364	8210	440
3200	442	8300	19,355
3200	449	8320	11,365
3900	449	8300	131,671
3900	451	8300	61
4120	199	8410	4,830
4120	220	8410	280
4120	230	8410	300
4120	240	8410	70
4120	250	8410	1
4210	199	8420	7,360
4210	220	8420	841
4210	230	8420	434
4210	240	8420	105
4210	250	8420	5
4290	479	8420	763
4290	489	8420	2,000
6190	479	8600	3,319
6310	339	8600	16,516
6390	471	8600	4,584
6490	199	8600	11,503
6490	220	8600	1,413
6490	230	8600	704
6490	240	8600	165
6490	250	8600	3
9120	472	4200	16,342
9200	347	4900	7,380
9200	472	4900	3,929
			1,374,401

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

Opelika City Schools began system-wide planning for the shutdown on March 12, 2020. Chromebooks were distributed to students for online learning beginning March 27, 2020 with online instruction beginning on March 30, 2020. Safety and health measures as well as online Instructional support is ongoing and will continue for the foreseeable future. All funds requested will be expended by September 30, 2022.

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

We are putting into place a 2:1 technology device Initiative to allow students to have a device both at home and at school. Various on-line platforms (Google Classroom Screencastify, etc.) are being utilized to assist with instruction and communication. Additionally, selected teachers are planning and developing instructional prototypes to be used by grade-span. These prototypes will improve the depth of on-line instruction and ensure quality instruction.

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?

Each private school in our district was contacted via certified mail and e-mail. The Oaks School is the only school that elected to participate in the funding. Initial consultation was held on June 17, 2020 via Google Meet with The Oaks School Director. The Oaks School submitted plans on June 18, 2020. Their plans include purchasing technology for distance learning and cleaning supplies/services to minimize the spread of COVID-19. The Equitable Services Implementation Agreement will be finalized no later than July 7, 2020 with services beginning shortly thereafter. The Equitable Services Implementation Agreement was revised and signed on April 13, 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?

Opelika City Schools does not have any barriers that impede access to educational programs. If any barriers are identified, a collaborative team will work to determine a resolution to the barrier.

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.

Chris Harrison

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)

Chris R. Harrison

LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Mark Neighbors

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

[Signature]

LEA Superintendent Signature

(334) 745-9700

Telephone Number

05/26/2021

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

(334) 745-9700

Telephone Number

05/26/2021

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: 5/3/2021

Date ALSDE Approved: 5/27/2021

[Signature]
State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

05-27-2021
Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____