



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	Geneva County Schools
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 250
Physical Address	606 South Academy Street
City/Town and Zip Code	Geneva, Alabama 36340
Superintendent's Name	Becky Birdsong
Contact Person	Ralph Riley
Contact Person Position	Assistant Superintendent
Contact Telephone Number	(334) 684-5690
Contact Email	riley@genevacoboe.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?

The district leadership team will review the district's Needs Assessment, recent parent surveys, district technology plan and local expenditures due to COV-19 and prioritize expenditures with the CARES Funds. The team's goal is to provide services to students in a timely manner that meet the various student needs caused by the pandemic. Based on the data, the leadership team will determine internet access and the availability students have to technology. The data will determine which method of delivery each student and family may need while offering various delivery options. The local expenditures for schools and the district will be reviewed in order to assure all federal and state guidelines for reopening schools are in compliance. The needs assessment revealed a need for Interventionist (salaries and benefits), additional custodians (salaries and benefits), health aides (salaries and benefits) and equipment for virtual school and activities done remotely.

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

At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, all students will be given a grade-level screener and/or assessment. The screener will be used to determine if learning gaps are present due to the pandemic. All students will be provided appropriate remediation and instruction.

Geneva County Board of Education Care Act Budget (ESSER - Fund Source 4290) \$995,019

<i>Function</i>	<i>Object</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Brief Description of Expenditure</i>
1100	084	1200	218,890.25	Intervention Salary and Benefits
1100	210	1200	59,232.00	Intervention Salary and Benefits
1100	220	1200	40,641.07	Intervention Salary and Benefits
1100	230	1200	20,386.30	Intervention Salary and Benefits
1100	240	1200	4,767.76	Intervention Salary and Benefits
1100	250	1200	65.76	Intervention Salary and Benefits
3200	171	8320	119,846.04	Custodian Salary and Benefits
3200	210	8320	67,200.00	Custodian Salary and Benefits
3200	220	8320	14,840.80	Custodian Salary and Benefits
3200	230	8320	7,430.46	Custodian Salary and Benefits
3200	240	8320	1,737.81	Custodian Salary and Benefits
3200	250	8320	40.66	Custodian Salary and Benefits
2140	102	8210	30,840.72	Health Aide Salary and Benefits
2140	210	8210	15,262.47	Health Aide Salary and Benefits
2140	220	8210	3,812.04	Health Aide Salary and Benefits
2140	230	8210	1,912.08	Health Aide Salary and Benefits
2140	240	8210	447.15	Health Aide Salary and Benefits
2140	250	8210	6.21	Health Aide Salary and Benefits
3200	493	8320	24,000.00	Equipment for Graduation
3200	499	8320	7,000.00	Graduation Equipment
1100	335	8100	10,000.00	substitutes for teachers being out with COVID
1100	010	8100	197,590.94	Teacher Salary and Benefits
1100	210	8100	46,368.00	Teacher Salary and Benefits
1100	220	8100	24,499.40	Teacher Salary and Benefits
1100	230	8100	12,239.83	Teacher Salary and Benefits
1100	240	8100	2,862.54	Teacher Salary and Benefits
1100	250	8100	98.71	Teacher Salary and Benefits
2215	319	8220	13,000.00	Professional Development
1100	622	8100	50,000.00	PLP Software
Total			995,019.00	

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

The funds will be used as soon as the LEA application is approved from the SEA. All funds will be spent prior to September 30, 2022.

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

We will purchase educational material through a platform that is electronically or digitally available. We will provide services and training that is necessary for the implementation of a digital curriculum.

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?

There are no private schools in Geneva County.

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?

Geneva County Schools will provide all students with equal opportunity and equal access to receive the necessary materials, equipment, and services for students to experience success.

GCS will use School PLP as the learning platform to provide the curriculum. Critical standards, as identified by the Alabama State Department of Education will be the focus. Intervention specialists at each elementary school will be hired to assist our instructional coaches in identifying targeted weaknesses in students and providing intervention and remediation plans for students. In conjunction with the grade level teacher of each student in need of intervention or remediation, the intervention specialists will assist classroom teachers with parental engagement activities to assist parents/guardians with their student.

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.

Jennifer Faulk

(334) 684-5697

LEA Chief School Financial Officer (Typed Name)

Telephone Number

11/04/2020

LEA Chief School Financial Officer Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Becky Birdsong

(334) 684-5696

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)

Telephone Number

11/04/2020

LEA Superintendent Signature

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: _____

Date ALSDE Approved: _____

State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date CARES Act ESSER Funds Released: _____