

Subject: Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools Program Update #11

Date: October 27, 2021

From: EANS Email Account (Laura Pinsonneault)

Greetings Wisconsin EANS Program Participants and Interested Parties,

The purpose of this email is to provide some key updates regarding the EANS program in Wisconsin. It includes new information about a timeline for schools to encumber funds, additional information about vaccine incentive programs (an allowable expense), and information about EANS as funded in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.

DPI has established a timeline for schools to use or encumber their EANS allocation.

The U.S. Department of Education recently updated EANS guidance, with implications for Wisconsin's program. In the [most recent FAQ update](#) (see question B-16), the Department clarified that, while states may establish an allocated amount of funds to support services and assistance for schools in the EANS program, that amount may not "artificially limit services or assistance to non-public schools". What this means is that if there are schools that will not spend the funds currently allocated, we have created an artificial limitation for schools that have used their funds and still have needs due to COVID-19. Here's how we plan to address this situation:

- Schools in the EANS program will have until May 13th, 2022 to use or encumber their allocated funds for future reimbursement and/or direct service.
- Any funds not encumbered or used by May 13th, 2022 will be pooled into a state-level fund source to support schools with continued need due to COVID-19.
- Schools may continue to submit claims for future reimbursement or direct service to CESA 6 after May 13, 2022; those claims will be reviewed on a monthly basis and approved based upon the extent of need in the school and availability of funds.

This solution provides more than six months for schools to plan how to use their remaining funds while also ensuring that schools with continued needs are not necessarily limited in the services and assistance available to them by the allocations provided back in the end of May.

CESA 6 will host a webinar in which we will discuss this plan further and answer any questions you may have. [Register here for the webinar](#), and know that CESA 6 will post a recording and the slide deck to their [Events & Learning page](#) for those unable to attend.

Reminder: EANS funds may be used to support vaccine incentive programs.

As it seems likely that there may soon be FDA and CDC approval of the Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5-11, there may be renewed interest in using EANS funds for vaccine incentive programs. As a reminder, we updated the [allowable expenses document](#) in September to show that such expenses are allowable. Vaccines significantly reduce the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the severity of the virus when spread. Further, the [CDC lists](#) promotion of vaccination as a key COVID-19 prevention strategy.

Vaccination-related activities should be placed in category 6 (other materials, supplies, or equipment recommended by the CDC for reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain health and safety). You will be able to request future reimbursement or direct service for these programs, which typically provide something like a gift card or other incentive (like school supplies or a tablet, or even a full or partial tuition scholarship for your school) for staff, students, and household members that provide evidence of full vaccination. This may include evidence of a vaccine booster for eligible individuals.

For other information about supporting vaccine incentive programs with EANS funds, please see [Program Update #10](#). You may also access the [CESA 6 EANS events & learning page](#) for the recording and/or slide deck for the September 15th webinar CESA 6 hosted about vaccine incentive programs.

We do not yet have USDE approval of Wisconsin's application for the ARP EANS program.

DPI has provided some additional information to USDE in response to questions they have had about our application. As soon as we know more about approval or whether we have to change our proposed criteria (outlined in [Program Update #10](#)), we will provide another program update.

On a personal note, this will be the last program update you receive from me. In November I will be starting a permanent position with a small company that supports state education agencies and districts in their efforts to improve educational outcomes for all students. While I'm excited about this next step, it's bittersweet for me. It's been a pleasure to support the EANS program in Wisconsin. Thank you all for your patience and kindness as we have navigated the policy challenges and tight timelines of EANS. While I'm sure there have been disappointments along the way, I also think the program has been a great success thus far, in no small part because of my amazing colleagues at CESA 6, at DPI, and because of all of your thoughtful engagement and support of the program. Thank you!

As always, if you have any questions about ARP EANS, please email EANS@dpi.wi.gov and someone from DPI will respond. All other program questions should go to EANS@CESA6.org.

I wish you all well as you continue to support educators and students in your schools.

Warmly,
Laura

Laura S. Pinsonneault (she/her/hers)
School Administration Consultant - EANS
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction