

Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) Program Update #15

Greetings Wisconsin EANS Program Participants and Interested Parties,

The purpose of this email is to provide some key updates regarding the CRRSA and ARP EANS programs, including the upcoming CRRSA EANS reallocation deadlines.

WEBINAR

Our excellent partners at CESA 6 will host a new EANS webinar at 1 PM on Thursday, April 28, 2022. The CRRSA EANS reallocation process will be discussed among other topics. [REGISTER](#)

5 Minute Video Update

Prior to the webinar, please also take a listen to this quick video that provides:

- Reminders on the deadline of March 13th for encumbering CRRSA funds
- Allowability categories
- Start to utilize your ARP EANS funds
- Future reimbursement payment requests need to be submitted with inventory sheets if physical items were purchased
- Rationales need to be strong and well connected to the request category



ARP EANS

There is approximately \$73.5 million available to eligible private schools under ARP EANS and runs until Sept 30, 2024. As of last week, private schools have spent or encumbered \$3.9 million, or about 5.25% of ARP EANS funds.

Important Reminders

- ARP EANS only allows direct services, *no past or future reimbursements*.
- Because CRRSA and ARP EANS are authorized by separate federal laws, they must be administered and tracked separately. As such, participating schools will not be able to move funds between the two EANS programs. For example, schools cannot request to replace a CRRSA EANS expense with ARP EANS funds.
- Similarly, CESA 6 will provide separate forms for schools to use for the two programs.
- The property rules in ARP EANS will be the same as CRRSA EANS, including the retaining of public title to purchased goods and the \$5,000 supply threshold.

Program questions for both CRRSA and ARP EANS should go to EANS@CESA6.org.

CRRSA EANS

As of last week, CRRSA EANS schools have expended or encumbered \$51.9 million, or about 67% of the total funds available.

As was first communicated in Update #11 on Oct 27, 2021, **DPI has established a timeline for schools to use or encumber their CRRSA EANS allocation.**

The U.S. Department of Education's [most recent FAQ update](#) (see question B-16) 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 CRRSA EANS program will have until **May 13, 2022** to use or encumber their allocated funds for future reimbursement and/or direct service.
- Any funds not encumbered or used by May 13, 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 and approved based upon the extent of need in the school and availability of funds.
- **The new pooled-funds request process will begin on May 16, 2022.**

This solution will have provided approximately one year (from May 2021) for participating schools to plan how to use their CRRSA EANS funds while also ensuring that schools with continued needs are not necessarily limited in the services and assistance available to them by the initial allocations.

If your school has been approved for a future reimbursement or direct service that you **will NOT** be following through on, please alert CESA 6 NOW so we can liquidate that PO from your allocation. Liquidations after 5/13/22 will be returned to the statewide pool.

CESA 6 discussed this process both in Nov 4, 2021 and Feb 3, 2022 webinars and has posted a recording and the slide deck to their [Events & Learning page](#).

Restrictions on Furniture-related Purchases

As you're all aware, student-spacing recommendations by the CDC and local health departments during the COVID-19 pandemic have been changing in relation to the severity of the outbreak and transmission rates. Regardless, there have been student-spacing recommendations and needs for both the 2020-21 and current 2021-22 school years that all public and private schools should have been aware of and implementing as needed. As such, the EANS program is now denying most furniture-related requests to accomplish or accommodate student-spacing. The rationale is that schools should already have been doing the spacing, to various degrees, over the past 2 school years and thus a new furniture request to address student-spacing does not meet the reasonableness requirement of the EANS program.

Please use caution and discretion when making any furniture-related EANS requests.

If your school determines that you no longer want or are eligible to participate in CRRSA or ARP EANS (i.e., you choose to accept a PPP loan), please notify us by emailing EANS@dpi.wi.gov. Please also use this email to notify the EANS program of any change in the EANS contact information for your school.

Sincerely,

DPI EANS staff