

Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) Program Update #19

Greetings Wisconsin EANS Program Participants and Interested Parties,

We are writing with updates on the following topics:

- Returned materials availability
- Approvals related to incidental virtual instruction
- Allowability spreadsheet
- Liquidation of CRRSA Future Reimbursements
- Don't delay ARP purchases

Returned Materials Availability

CESA 6 recently took possession of EANS-purchased curriculum materials from an EANS school that closed this past summer. As you recall, all items purchased with EANS funds must remain under public control with CESA 6. The EANS law permits items purchased with EANS funds to be used by another eligible private school for eligible EANS purposes through the end of the programs. We anticipate there may be other items needing to be returned to CESA 6 as we approach the end of the CRRSA EANS program in September 2023. As such, CESA 6 has created a link on their EANS website (<https://eans.cesa6.org/program-resources/surplus-materials.cfm>) that will show any available items that other EANS schools could take possession of; CESA 6 will retain title to the items. The school would need to arrange for the pickup and/or delivery of the items from either the CESA 6 office or the relinquishing EANS school.

Approvals related to incidental virtual instruction

In the previous Program Update #18, we informed you of changes in the allowability of items and services related to social distancing due to updated CDC guidance. In a similar vein, we also need to make you aware of a change in the reasonableness standard for items requested related to hybrid or virtual instruction under Category #8. Today, almost all schools are primarily in-person with very little to no regular virtual instruction on a classroom or school-wide basis as a result of COVID-19. In addition, due to the reduced length of quarantine for COVID illness or exposure for students as a result of revised CDC guidelines, students will now tend to be out of school for a short period of time. Most virtual instruction due to COVID-related absences will be incidental to the instruction otherwise carried out in your schools. **Therefore, we will not be approving most new requests under Category #8 to implement virtual instruction. Under the reasonableness criteria of the EANS program, such incidental virtual instruction or possible future virtual instruction does not meet the program requirements.**

Allowability spreadsheet

The EANS Allowable Expenses spreadsheet on DPI's EANS website (<https://dpi.wi.gov/crrsaa/eans#Resources>) has been updated to reflect recent changes in CDC guidance related to social distancing as well as incidental virtual instruction. Please be aware of these changes and refer to the spreadsheet for initial guidance.

Liquidation of CRRSA Future Reimbursements

As of this week, CEAS 6 reports that there are about 570 outstanding CRRSA EANS future reimbursement requests worth about \$4 million. Some of these requests are more than 12 months old, dating back to the summer of 2021. We understand that some of these are as-yet unfulfilled due to supply and/or delivery issues. There is another batch of requests, however, where the items or services have been received by the private school but it has not submitted an invoice to CESA 6 for payment.

In a prior Program Update we asked schools to cancel their purchase orders for items that were no longer eligible for new purchases under EANS, if that were possible. We now also ask you to **please submit your invoices to CESA 6 for reimbursement as soon as possible** for items you have received so that we can liquidate your outstanding purchase orders.

Lastly, in order to facilitate the closure of CRRSA EANS future reimbursements, **we are establishing the following 2 deadlines:**

- **February 1, 2023** – the last date EANS schools can request to change a pending future reimbursement to another item within the same category of service. This can include changing the model of a particular item or switching to a new eligible item within the same service category.
- **July 1, 2023** – the last date to submit invoices for payment on a future reimbursement. Any future reimbursement not invoiced for payment by this date will be canceled and liquidated. With CRRSA EANS ending on September 30, 2023 we need to be able to start closing out that program's expenditures during the summer of 2023. Having all future reimbursement invoices paid or liquidated by this date will facilitate that process.

Thank you for your cooperation in meeting these deadlines.

Don't delay ARP purchases

Lastly, we want to remind all ARP EANS schools to not delay in making plans to spend your allocated funds. We encourage schools to think of eligible items or services related to addressing learning loss as the best way now to request EANS funds. While we are currently monitoring how quickly ARP EANS funds are being spent, it is still possible that we will move to establish another statewide pool from unused ARP EANS allocations similar to what was done with CRRSA EANS last spring, particularly so that schools have the chance to make plans for use of ARP EANS funds during the final 23-24 school year of the program.

Sincerely,
DPI EANS Staff