

Overview of the Federal Stimulus Packages: CARES Act and CRRSA Act

Federal Funding Conference
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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Carolyn Stanford Taylor, State Superintendent

Education Stabilization Fund

CARES Act (\$30B)

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

Passed in March 2020

Created Education Stabilization Fund

- Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I)
- Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER I)

CRRSA Act (\$82B)

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act

Passed in December 2020

Furthered Education Stabilization Fund

- Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II)
- Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER II)
 - Created the Emergency Assistance to Non-public School (EANS) program

Education Stabilization Fund

Intended to meet needs resulting from COVID-19, such as:

- Ensuring health and safety
- Developing and implementing plans for the continuation of instruction
- Providing resources for distance education and other integral services

The CRRSA Act allows for all activities encompassed under CARES Act, with an additional emphasis on assessing and addressing learning loss, and preparing schools to reopen safely.

Commonalities: CARES and CRRSA

CARES Act

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

CRRSA Act

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act

Federal stimulus package to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID 19.

Provide grants to LEAs.

There is no supplement, not supplant provision. Use of funds is very flexible.

EDGAR, Uniform Grant Guidance, and LEA policies still apply.

MOE is determined at the state level, not at the LEA level.

ESSER: CARES vs CRRSA

CARES Act - ESSER I (\$174M)	CRRSA Act - ESSER II (\$686M)
March 13, 2020 - September 30, 2022	March 13, 2020** - September 30, 2023
\$40,000 minimum for all LEAs	\$100,000 minimum for all LEAs
	\$65M will be available to 174 LEAs who did not meet a minimum per pupil allocation of \$395. Grants will be based on in-person instruction during the 2020-21 school year.
Investment in statewide initiatives	

ESSER: CARES vs CRRSA

CARES Act - ESSER I

Section 18003(d) - Use of Funds:

- continued staff employment
- addressing long-term school closure
- educational technology
- addressing afterschool and summer learning
- mental health services and supports
- outreach/service delivery to special populations

LEAs must provide equitable services to participating private schools

CRRSA Act - ESSER II

Same as CARES Act **with the addition of:**

- safely reopening schools and
- assessing and addressing learning loss

Does not require LEAs to provide equitable services to private schools

GEER: CARES vs CRRSA

CARES Act - GEER I

CRRSA Act - GEER II

March 13, 2020 - September 30, 2022

March 13, 2020** - September 30, 2023

\$46.6M Grants to 156 LEAs & 3 Tribal Schools

GEER II Grants to LEAs

Use of Funds:

- remote and distance learning
- infrastructure and schedule modification
- health and safety

- Governor's office is in the process of making this decision.

\$77.1M Services to Private Schools

Activities aligned with existing activities under ESSER

- Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS)

LEAs must provide equitable services to participating private schools

DPI, not LEAs, must provide services to participating private schools.

Reporting: CARES vs CRRSA

CARES - Reporting (ESSER I and GEER I)

CRRSA - Reporting (ESSER II and GEER II)

Historical FTE data / Schools served

Number of students using home internet access funded by the acts; devices funded by the acts; and how those devices were used

Student participation and engagement strategies

How funds were spent (e.g. preparedness and response to COVID-19, summer learning, etc.)

Anticipating an additional focus on:

- safely reopening schools and
- assessing and addressing learning loss

Paying Employees and Contractors

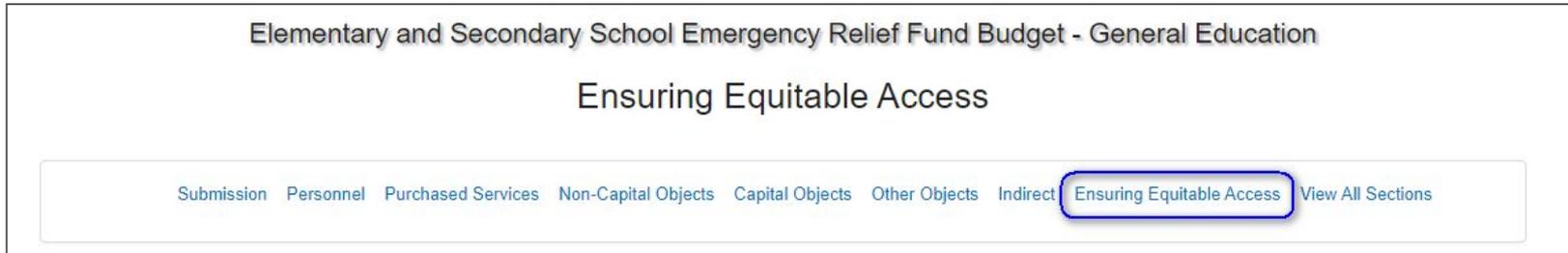
Section 18006 - Continued Payment to Employees

“A local educational agency, State, institution of higher education, or other entity that receives funds under **Education Stabilization Fund**, shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its **employees** and **contractors** during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.”

Ensuring Equitable Access

The General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) Section 427 highlights six types of barriers that can impede equitable access or participation in federally funded programs: **gender, race, national origin, color, disability, or age.**

As part of ESSER, GEER, and ESSER II grant applications, LEAs need to include a succinct description of steps to be taken to overcome the barriers that are applicable to their circumstances. One description is required for each program type tied to budget expenses (not for each budget item).



CARES Act: ESSER I Funding to Wisconsin

Section 18003 of the CARES Act

- Approximately \$174 million for Wisconsin LEAs
 - 90% - Grants for LEAs determined by the funding formula used to calculate allocations for Title I, Part A.
 - 10% - To address issues responding to coronavirus, which may be addressed through the use of grants or contracts.

CARES Act: ESSER I Funding to Wisconsin

10% set-aside:

- Allowed up to 0.5% of total allocation for administration. DPI will use 0.2%.
- Ensured every LEA receives a grant allocation of at least \$40,000
- Investment in statewide initiatives to expand our capacity around:
 - Access to high-quality online instructional resources through Wisconsin Digital Learning Collaborative
 - Mental health services through the WISH Center
 - Training for educators to address COVID-related changes to instruction through the Institute for Personalized Learning

CARES Act: ESSER I Allowable Costs

- Project code 160
- Funds can be used for allowable costs in multiple Funds
 - General Education and Private School (Fund 10)
 - Special Education (Fund 27)
 - Food Services (Fund 50)
 - Community Service Fund (Fund 80)
- Budgeted and claimed as separate subbudgets in WISEgrants, based upon Fund.
- No minimum requirements for spending in specific areas, other than costs must be budgeted for participating private schools.

CARES Act: ESSER I Allowable Costs

ESSERF details specific categories of activities for grant funds

- Preparedness and Response to COVID-19
 - Includes costs around training for staff, planning and coordinating, changes to the physical plant, sanitation, health screening, social distancing
- Addressing Long-term School Closure
 - Any costs generated when “normal” in-person education is interrupted, including temporary closures, temporary virtual-only, or dedicated hybrid models
- Addressing Afterschool and Summer Activities
 - Activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs

CARES Act: ESSER I Allowable Costs

ESSERF details specific categories of activities for grant funds

- Educational Technology
 - Purchasing of technology (hardware, software, and connectivity) for students to support substantive educational interaction
- Mental Health Services and Support
 - Providing mental health services and supports
- Outreach/Service Delivery to Special Populations
 - Activities to address the unique needs of low-income students, English learners, racial and ethnic monitoring, students with disabilities, students experiencing homelessness, etc.

CARES Act: ESSER I Allowable Costs

- Continued Staff Employment
 - Salary and benefits for LEA staff, or costs of contracted services, necessary to maintain the operation and continuity of services in the LEA

This cost category ties back to the **Section 18006 Certification**

LEAs attested to their intent to continue to pay staff and contractors either using other funding, or to their intent to do so using CARES Act funding, or to provide a reasonable explanation as to why it is not practicable for the LEA to do so.

CARES Act: GEER I Funding to Wisconsin

Section 18002 of the CARES Act

- Approximately **\$80** million for Wisconsin distributed by the Governor
 - The Governor and the Department of Administration (DOA) partnered with DPI to administer the grant
- **\$46.6** million of those funds were apportioned for K-12 education

CARES Act: GEER I Funding to LEAs

Funds targeted to LEAs most impacted by the pandemic, with a focus on students in need of academic support and their ability to access learning.

- 156 LEAs and 3 Tribal Schools identified to receive funds based on [four factors](#):
 - Percentage of students scoring below basic on English language arts (ELA),
 - Percentage of students from economically disadvantaged families,
 - Percentage of households with no devices, and
 - Percentage of households with no internet.
- Must follow UGG, EDGAR, State, and LEA policy.

CARES Act: GEER I Allowable Costs

- Project code 162
- Costs can be budgeted for allowable costs in Fund 10 and Fund 27:
 - General Education and Private School (Fund 10)
 - Special Education (Fund 27)
- Costs budgeted and claimed within separate subbudgets
- Focused toward specific areas of educational need

CARES Act: GEER I Allowable Costs

GEER funds targeted to specific areas, which align with areas of cost under ESSERF:

- **Remote and Distance Learning**

Educational Technology/Addressing Longterm School Closure/Outreach and Service Delivery to Special Populations/Mental Health Services and Supports

- **Infrastructure and Schedule Modifications**

Preparedness and Response to COVID-19/Addressing Longterm School Closure

- **Health and Safety**

Preparedness and Response to COVID-19/Addressing Longterm School Closure

CARES Act Equitable Participation: Proportional Calculation

CARES Act Section 18005

A local educational agency receiving funds under sections 18002 or 18003 of this title shall provide equitable services in the same manner as provided under Title I, Part A.

- Low-income Enrollment vs. Total Enrollment
 - USDE's [Interim Final Rule](#)
 - WISEgrants calculated ESSER proportional share using both methods during the litigation period
- U.S. District Court vacated the Interim Final Rule on September 4
 - **Determined low-income enrollment should be used**
- September 25, the Secretary of Education released a [letter](#) stating they would not appeal the U.S. Court's decision

CARES Act Equitable Participation

- LEAs must provide equitable services to students and teachers in private schools in the same manner as required under Title I, Part A.
- LEAs are required to consult with **all private schools that reside within their boundaries**. Consultation must:
 - Be timely and meaningful;
 - Cover all specific topics outlined on affirmation form;
 - Include data for **all** students attending the private school;
 - Agreement on how best to provide equitable and effective services;
 - Be certified in the Private School Affirmation Form; and
 - Be ongoing.
- Public Control of Funds - Requires LEAs to maintain all control of the funds, including any purchased materials, supplies, or equipment.

CARES Act: ESSER/GEER Claims Format

Program Type	Account	Object Name	Function Name	Approved Budget Amount	Total Amount Claimed to Date	Obligations	Amount Requested this Claim	Amount Remaining	Cumulative Claimed to Date
Educational Technology	10-362-11000-160	Software as a Service	Undifferentiated Curriculum	\$23,149.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$23,149.00	\$0.00
Educational Technology	10-358-22150-160	Internet Access	Instruction Related Technology	\$77,025.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,025.00	\$0.00
Preparedness and Response to COVID-19	10-325-25300-160	Vehicle and Equipment Rental	Operation	\$1,009.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,009.00	\$0.00
Preparedness and Response to COVID-19	10-329-25300-160	Cleaning Services	Operation	\$24,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00	\$0.00

CARES Act: ESSER/GEER Claims Format

School	Account	Object Name	Function Name	Approved Budget Amount	Total Amount Claimed to Date	Obligations	Amount Requested this Claim	Amount Remaining	Cumulative Claimed to Date
Pacelli Cath El St Bronislava	10-310-221300-160	Personal Services	Instructional Staff Training	\$2,560.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,560.00	\$0.00
Pacelli Cath El St Stephen	10-310-221300-160	Personal Services	Instructional Staff Training	\$4,608.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,608.00	\$0.00
Pacelli Catholic Mid	10-310-221300-160	Personal Services	Instructional Staff Training	\$3,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,200.00	\$0.00
Pacelli Hi	10-310-221300-160	Personal Services	Instructional Staff Training	\$2,432.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,432.00	\$0.00

CARES Act Reporting

- Collected in WISEgrants as part of the ESSER and GEER applications
 - Opened on January 27, 2021 for the first reporting period
 - LEA must have submitted a claim for all approved subbudgets with a report period end date on 12/31/2020 (or within December) to access the report screen
- Included data on amounts expended between March 13, 2020 through December 2020
- Due February 10, 2021

CARES Act Reporting

Areas of required reporting under ESSERF:

- Use of SEA Reserve funds (LEAs who had a formula allocation of less than \$40k received Reserve funds to bring their allocation up to \$40k)
- Use of formula funds
- Specific activities
 - Provision of Home Internet Access
 - Provision of Student Devices (Laptops, Tablets, and Desktop computers)
 - Remote Learning Activities
- FTE Staff Totals (not related to ESSER or GEER funding)

CARES Act Reporting

Areas of required reporting under GEERF:

- Use of funds
- Specific activities
 - Provision of Home Internet Access
 - Provision of Student Devices (laptops, tablets, and desktop computers)
- FTE staff totals (all FTE, not limited to ESSER or GEER funding)
- # of served schools

CARES Act Reporting

Data collection from LEAs:

- Home internet access
- Student devices
 - Only includes “computer type” devices (desktop, laptop, and tablet computers - including Chromebooks and iPads)
 - Devices purchased and received within report period end date (12/31/2020)
- Student participation and engagement
- FTE positions
 - Include all staff, besides co-curricular positions (coaches, officials, etc)
- Schools served (GEER)

CARES Act Reporting

- Reporting will continue through the entire grant period, with two additional reporting periods.
 - January 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021
 - October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022
- Will include data on amounts expended within the reporting period
- Will require some of the same additional data collection through the CARES Reporting screen in the application

CRRSA Act: ESSER II Funding to Wisconsin

Section 313 of the CRRSA Act:

- Approximately \$686 million for Wisconsin LEAs
 - 90% - Grants for LEAs determined by the funding formula used to calculate allocations for Title I, Part A.
 - 10% - To address issues responding to coronavirus, which may be addressed through the use of grants.

CRRSA Act: ESSER II Funding to Wisconsin

10% set-aside for state-level activities

- A portion will be used for administrative costs (0.17% of ESSER II allocation);
- Ensure every LEA receives a grant allocation of at least \$100,000;
- Allocate \$65 million to 174 LEAs who do not meet the \$395 per pupil amount through grants based on in-person instruction for 2020-21 school year
- Allocate funding to other Wisconsin educational entities:
 - Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
 - Wisconsin Education Service Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
 - Syble Hopp School operated by Brown County Children with Disabilities Board
 - Lakeland School operated by Walworth County Children with Disabilities Board

CRRSA Act: ESSER II

- Project code 163
- Located in the 2021-22 fiscal year in WISEgrants. This does not reflect the grant period (3/13/20 through 9/30/23).
- New set of authorizations forms specific to the CRRSA Act will need to be digitally signed in WISEgrants.
- LEAs will not need to complete Section 18006 under the CRRSA Act, but will need to have completed the certification under the CARES Act.

CRRSA Act: ESSER II Allowable Costs

Includes all allowable costs under ESSER I and additional activities outlined under ESSER II

- **Safely reopening schools**

- School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs

- **Assessing and addressing learning loss**

- Administering and using high-quality assessments, evidence-based activities, family engagement activities to support families in distance learning and engagements, comprehensive initiatives, such as developing interim and formative assessment tools, academic recovery and accelerated learning initiatives, high-quality, evidence-based literacy initiatives, and other high-impact activities

CRRSA Act: Focus on Students Needs

Focus spending on student needs

- Who are your most vulnerable students? What are their needs?
- Do you know the current needs of the families? If not, who should reach out?
- What have you learned from families, staff, students?
- What data do you have about how things were going before the pandemic?
- Would providing a particular type of support make things harder instead of better?
- What types of professional learning do educators need in order to meet current student needs?

CRRSA Act: Focus on Students Needs

Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care, of the local educational agency, including by:

- Administering and using high quality assessments to assess progress
 - 2020-21 State assessment have not been waived
 - 2020-21 Federal assessment have not been waived
 - DPI applied for a federal waiver to waive the requirement to assess 95% of the students. This waiver is pending approval from USDE.
- Implementing evidence-based activities to meet the comprehensive needs of students.
- Providing information and assistance to parents and families on how they can effectively support students, including in a distance learning environment.
- Tracking student attendance and improving student engagement in distance education

CRRSA Act: Reporting

Similar to CARES Act funding, CRRSA Act funds will require data collection to complete federal reporting. ESSER II reporting specifications have not been released at this time.

We do know that the reporting will include documenting the use of funds under the allowable activities. DPI will continue to pull compile data based upon budgeted and claimed amounts within WISEgrants.

Additional data collection will be included in the ESSER II application when we know specific requirements.

CRRSA Act: EANS

Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) program

\$77.1M available for services, assistance, and reimbursement of eligible costs to private schools meeting eligibility requirements.

Application will be available to private schools, through WISEgrants, March 12, 2021.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Is a non-profit school;
- Has submitted a PI-1207 form or provided alternate certification of its institution's status as a private school under Wisconsin statute for 2020-21;
- Was in existence prior to March 13, 2020; and
- Did not and will not apply for **and** receive a loan under the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that is made on or after December 27, 2020.

CRRSA Act: EANS

Examples of allowable services and assistance:

- Supplies to sanitize school facilities, physical barriers to facilitate social distancing, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Improvements to sites or spaces to ensure social distancing or minimize the spread of infectious disease
- Training and professional development for staff
- Educational technology
- Redeveloping instructional plans, and initiating and maintaining education and support services for remote or hybrid learning or to address learning loss
- Reasonable transportation costs
- Reimbursement for the expenses of any services or assistance described above incurred on or after March 13, 2020, except for the items below:
 - Improvements to ventilation systems
 - Any expenses reimbursed through a loan guaranteed under the PPP prior to December 27, 2020.
 - Staff training and professional development on sanitization, health, and safety in response to COVID-19
 - Initiating and maintaining education and support services or assistance for remote or hybrid learning or to address learning loss.

CRRSA Act: EANS

Examples of allowable services and assistance:

- Supplies to sanitize school facilities, physical barriers to facilitate social distancing, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
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 - Improvements to ventilation systems
 - Any expenses reimbursed through a loan guaranteed under the PPP prior to December 27, 2020.
 - Staff training and professional development on sanitization, health, and safety in response to COVID-19
 - Initiating and maintaining education and support services or assistance for remote or hybrid learning or to address learning loss.

The Next Stimulus Bill



The Next Stimulus Bill Proposal

President Biden's Stimulus Proposal (January 14, 2021)

- **\$1.9 Trillion Total**
 - \$130 Billion for K-12 Schools
 - Reduce class sizes
 - Improve ventilation
 - Purchase PPE and physical barriers
 - Mitigate learning loss
 - Extend learning time (summer school)
 - Increased funding for teachers, custodians, nurses.

The Next Stimulus Bill Proposal

House of Representatives Proposal

(February 9, 2021)

- \$130 Billion for K-12 schools to reopen during the pandemic
- GEER would not be funded under this proposal
- HEER, funding for higher education, would be.



The Next Stimulus Bill Proposal

ESSER III

- **States must:**
 - Allocate 90% to LEAs under the same conditions of ESSER
 - Reserve at least 5% of funds to address learning loss
- **LEAs would need to:**
 - Reserve 20% to address learning loss
 - Provide equitable services to private schools

The Next Stimulus Bill Proposal

Maintenance of Effort for States

- States must maintain education spending in 2022 and 2023 at levels “at least proportional” to those in 2017, 2018, and 2019.
- SEAs would be prohibited from cutting per-pupil spending on high-poverty LEAs at a rate steeper than overall cuts in per-pupil spending across all LEAs or reducing funding for the 20 percent of LEAs with the highest percentage of economically disadvantaged students below 2019 funding levels.

The Next Stimulus Bill Proposal

Maintenance of Effort for LEAs

LEAs would be prohibited from:

- Cutting per-pupil spending at any high-poverty school at a rate disproportionate to overall cuts across the LEA and
- Reducing per-pupil staffing in any high-poverty school at a rate steeper than across the LEA.

The proposal is with the House Budget Committee.

Resources

DPI resources:

- CARES webpage
 - Federal Waivers for LEAs
 - CARES Act FAQ
 - GEPA 427: Ensuring Equitable Access
- ESSERF webpage
 - ESSERF Allowable Costs - Public and Private
- GEERF webpage
 - GEERF Allowable Costs - Public and Private
- CRRSA Act webpage
- DPI's Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools webpage

USDE resources:

- Federal Reporting Portal: <https://covid-relief-data.ed.gov/>