



CARES Act Funds in Education

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CARES ACT / CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF) OVERVIEW

COVID-19 ECONOMIC RELIEF

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed on March 27, provides over \$2 trillion in federal economic relief to protect the American people from the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The CARES Act provides assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserves jobs for American industries.

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF)

Section 5001 of the CARES Act established the \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), providing payments to state, local, and tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. The CARES Act sets criteria that expenses must meet to be eligible for CRF funding.



Coronavirus Relief Funds

The CARES Act specifies that payments can be made from the CRF for:

- Expenditures must be a necessary result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Costs must not be accounted for in the current biennial budget.
- Funds must be expended by December 30, 2020.

The CRF cannot be used to fill behind lost revenues or pay for expenditures that will be reimbursed under another federal program.

Goals for a Safe Return to School

1. Prioritize the safety of students and staff.
2. Prioritize in-person learning, especially for younger learners and those with most need.
3. Recognize differences in potential spread among different ages.
4. Support planning, while permitting flexibility for districts.
5. Take into account disease prevalence at a local level.

Health Requirements and Best Practices

- Social distancing of 6 feet (as much space as possible for all in-person, **required** in hybrid model)
- Masking policy (required)
- Cohosting (recommended to the extent feasible)
- PPE for direct support student services (required)
- Build routines of hygiene education and practices (required)
- Ventilation system improvements
- Daily cleaning and frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces throughout the day (required)
- Building level COVID-19 program coordinator (required), with optional student counterpart
- Limiting nonessential visitors, volunteers, external groups (required)
- Discontinue large gatherings/activities that do not allow for social distancing (required)
- Daily health monitoring and adherence to exclusion policy (required)



Total CRF Funding Requested for Schools

Total Request: \$256 Million

- Addressing Operating Costs and Supporting Student, Family and Educator Needs: \$244.8 Million
- Supplies for Schools; Flexibility for Critical Care Supplies: \$5.2 Million
- Educator and School Staff Saliva Testing: \$6 Million

Department of Education CRF Request

\$244.8 million in additional funding from Coronavirus Relief Funds

- Operational Costs
- Supporting Student, Family and Educator Needs
- Administration

* Funds are available from July 1 through December 30.

Operational costs associated with the learning model chosen—regardless of in-person, hybrid or distance learning including, but not limited to:

- Daily cleaning supplies and disinfectant sprayers.
- Screening supplies including no-touch thermometers.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings.
- Increased costs for transporting students at limited capacity.

Supporting Student, Family and Educator Needs

Boost student, family, educator support, prioritizing equity. Funds can be used for (but are not limited to):

- Digital navigators: training for educators, students, or families on use of technology/digital literacy.
- Technology devices and internet access.
- Tutors or mentors to address learning loss: supporting whole school, small group and individual needs.
- Translation services.
- School-age care for essential workers.
- Professional development focused on: Academic Response to Intervention (RtI); social emotional learning; competency-based learning; diversity, equity, and inclusion; anti-bias practices.

Digital Navigators are people who support individuals and families to connect to an adequate, affordable, sustainable Internet service so that all learners have access to education opportunities and resources by:

- Identifying barriers and providing ongoing support in the specific context of local conditions.
- Being part of a network that receives specific training and developmental support.
- Helping families communicate in their first language with service providers, schools and additional community services.
- Supporting K-12 learning, including digital literacy and online safety.

MDE Administrative costs include \$300,000 for:

- Staff time to set up, review, monitor, and report on the use of these funds.
- Support the SERVS application, which is used by the schools to draw and manage their funds.
- Fund staff to assist school districts with digital navigator support.

Funds will be allocated to the schools based on the following:

1. Sixty percent (60%) for operational cost—100% based on Average Daily Membership (ADM).
2. Forty percent (40%) for supporting student, family and educator needs:
 - Forty percent (40%) based on ADM.
 - Sixty percent (60%) based on number of historically underserved population served by each school or school district.

* Funds may be spent in any amounts in either of the two categories.

School Application Process - Timeline

1. Funds are available July 1 through December 30.
 - MDE will be proactive in monitoring balances so as to ensure we spend all funds available to us.
2. CRF proposal was submitted to the Legislative Advisory Commission on August 4.
3. SERVS application loaded with CRF allocations – est. August 21.
4. Applications and budget must be submitted by end of day October 1.
 - Funds not obligated through an application/budget will be swept for re-allocation on October 2.
5. November 13 all schools who have not drawn at least 75% of their funds will be contacted and asked to provide an updated estimate of how much they think they can realistically spend by December 30.
 - Funds will be re-allocated based on historically underserved populations served.
6. Reporting will need to be done at some point before normal UFARS reporting.

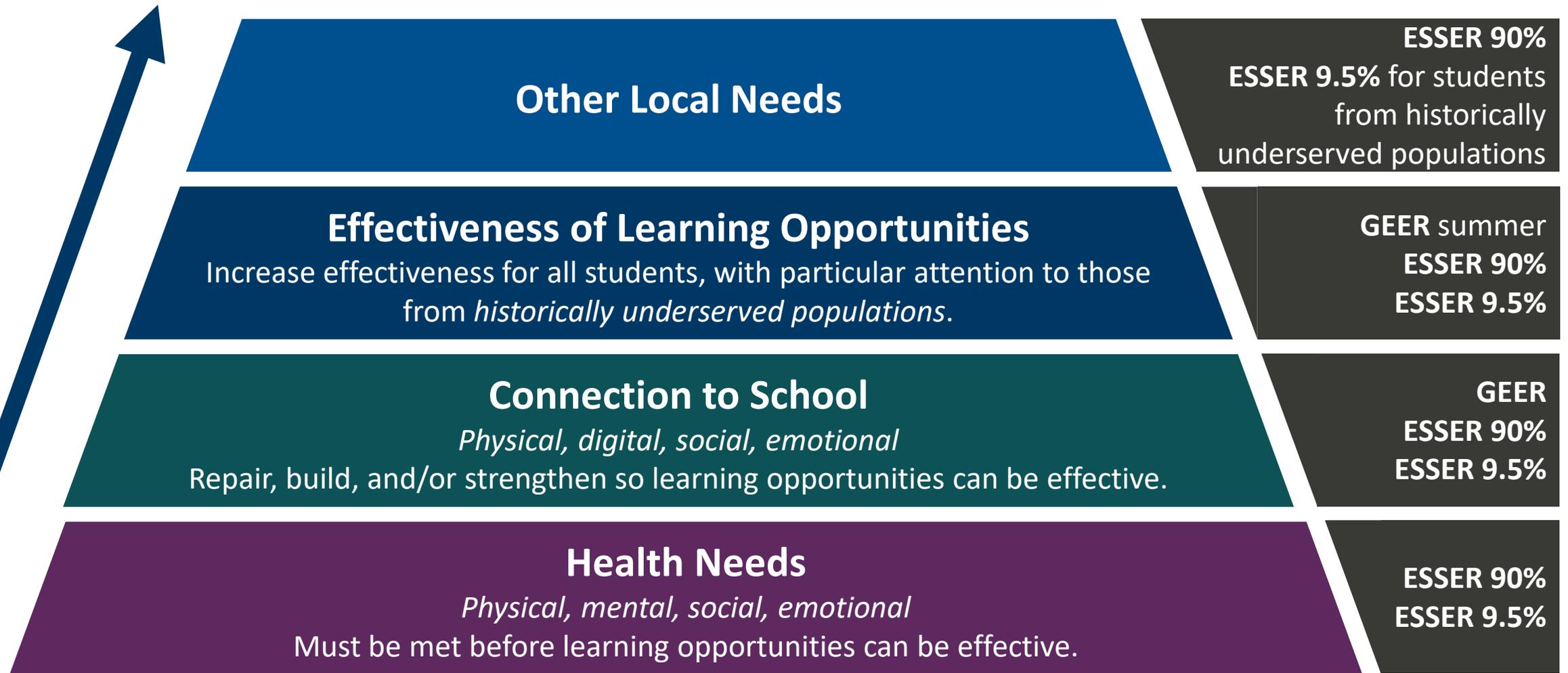
School Application

1. Application will be similar to the GEERS application and process.
2. Application will include:
 - Local Educational Agency (LEA) identification and contact information.
 - Plan creation narrative.
 - Steps to promote equal access and equity in experience.
 - Check boxes for broad categories of intended uses.
 - Statement of Assurances.
3. Submit separate budget spreadsheet.
4. Application will not require a nonpublic participation.

Other CARES Funding Update

Many of the identified uses for this new CRF money are also eligible uses for the ESSER money that has already been allocated. Wherever possible, use your CRF funds first.

Meet Foundational Needs First



Minnesota Priorities

GEER

The Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

Minnesota: **\$43.4 million**

Technology Access

- Broadband
- Hotspots
- Devices for students

Summer School Programming

- Increase staffing to reach a student-to-teacher ratio of 6-to-1
- Transportation

ESSER

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

Minnesota: **\$140.1 million**

90% formula to districts

- Keep students healthy and connected to learning
- Other local needs

9.5% state-directed grants to districts

- Supplementing GEER priorities
- Mental health supports
- Historically underserved populations

The Application Process

SERVS

Only uploads are needed when first applying. Complete separately for each program.
After approval of uploads, create the line-item budget for each program's expenses.
Once the budget is approved, draw funds.

Narrative Document
(Word)

Budget Worksheet
(Excel)

**Nonpublic Participation
Summary**
(if applicable, Word)

Progress So Far

- Roughly 10% of expected applications have been received so far.
- The vast majority have been approved.
- Some have been asked to resubmit or add information.
- A small number are still being reviewed and will receive communication shortly.
- Several cannot be reviewed until they are signed in SERVS by their superintendent.

Nonpublic Guidance

- Approximately 160 districts will need to make a decision about how to calculate the share of funds for nonpublic schools in their districts.
- The U.S. Department of Education has defined three choices:
 - Option 1: Use the share calculated for Title I, Part A in 2019-20.
 - Option 2: Divide the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals in participating nonpublics by the sum of such students in Title I schools and participating nonpublics.
 - Option 3: Divide the total number of students in participating nonpublics by the sum of students in the district and in participating nonpublics.
- Those that choose Option 1 or Option 2 can only spend their funds in Title I schools and must abide by supplement-not-supplant.

Coordination of CARES Act Funds

Significant overlap in allowable uses exists, especially between CRF funds and ESSER formula (90%) funds.

Many other CARES Act funding sources must be spent by the end of December, 2020. These sources include the Coronavirus Relief Fund grants.

The GEER and ESSER funds can be spent on expenses from March 13, 2020, through September 30, 2022.

Districts, charter schools, counties, and other CARES Act fund recipients can coordinate which funds they use for the rest of 2020 and which they save for later.

Questions?

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Thank you!

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