



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 27, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent *KG*
Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: U.S. Dept. of Education Frequently Asked Questions on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Programs and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Programs - MEMO #COVID-19-195

Earlier this week, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) released a frequently asked questions (FAQs) [document](#) on Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) programs and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) programs that provides nonregulatory guidance on the use ESSER and GEER funds.

The FAQ document is intended to clarify allowable uses of funds and describe how the funds may be used to implement actionable strategies to meet the needs of students and educators to return to, and safely sustain, in-person instruction; address the educational inequities that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; and address students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs.

The document is divided into the following sections:

- A. Overview of ESSER and GEER funds
- B. Reopening schools safely and promoting the health and safety of students, staff, and the school community
- C. Advancement of educational equity in COVID-19 response
- D. Use of ESSER and GEER funds to support educators and other school staff
- E. Additional fiscal considerations

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) encourages intermediate school districts and local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), to review this document and utilize this information as they continue to plan for the effective use of ESSER and GEER funds.

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MDE anticipates USED will provide additional informational resources and clarifications related to the content of this FAQ document in the coming months and will share accordingly.

Please email any questions to MDECARES@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors