



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 4, 2020

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

FROM: Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent KG
Division of Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund – Education Equity Grant Application and Information – MEMO #COVID-19-081

On May 1, 2020, school districts received MDE memo [#COVID-19-046](#) announcing federal approval of the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief (ESSER) Fund application, which awarded the state \$389,796,984 in emergency relief funds. The award was part of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. MDE awarded 90 percent of the funds to eligible local school districts based on the 2019-20 Title I, Part A funding formula, as required by the CARES Act. Eligible districts were able to begin the application process for these funds on May 8, 2020.

MDE memo [#COVID-19-046](#) announced MDE's intention under Section 18003 of Division B of the CARES Act to reserve up to 10 percent of the state ESSER fund award to establish an education equity fund to support allowable activities. MDE is announcing the ESSER Education Equity Fund grant application. ESSER Education Equity Fund grant funds totaling \$37,030,554 are available. The purpose of the grant is to address digital and mental health equity by providing targeted funding to reduce the digital divide and providing mental health services and supports in Michigan's highest need districts.

Starting August 4, 2020 all school districts and public-school academies will be able to apply for these funds. Priority for funding will be given to 332 districts that have been identified as meeting at least one of the following need-based criteria (as reported during school year (SY) 2019-20):

- The district is over 85% economically disadvantaged
- At least one school in the district is over 85% economically disadvantaged
- The district is over 20% students with disabilities
- The district is over 10% English learners

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A list of the 332 districts can be found at:

http://michigan.gov/documents/mde/ESSER_Education_Equity_Funds_HNSC_69822_6_7.xlsx

School district authorized officials can initiate and submit the application in the Michigan Electronic Grant System Plus (MEGS+). Applications are due no later than September 30, 2020.

Districts may apply for an amount up to 20 percent of their ESSER formula allocation for the purpose of:

1. Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students served by the local education agency to aid in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and school staff members.
2. Providing mental health services and supports.

If a district was not eligible for an ESSER formula grant, the district may apply for up to \$87.34 per pupil from their 2019-20 state aid membership.

The ESSER Education Equity Fund application will require applicants to provide information on how they identified their most important needs and to provide a budget detailing how they intend to use these funds. Additionally, as by the federal CARES Act, applicants must outline how they will provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools located within their district boundary.

Once applications are submitted, MDE will review and approve applications in a timely manner. Priority for funding will be given to the identified 332 highest-need districts.

These are federal funds and the usual regulations apply, including that ESSER funds must be drawn on a reimbursement basis.

Questions concerning this grant can be sent to MDE-CARES@michigan.gov. Please use ESSER - Education Equity Fund in the subject line so that any questions can be addressed as quickly as possible.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors