



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2020

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

FROM: Kyle Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent
Finance and Operations KG

SUBJECT: Michigan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
Application Approval

On April 29, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) approved the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund application and 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 will award 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. ESSER allocations to local school districts are posted on MDE's Office of Educational Supports website at:

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-81376_51051-127227--,00.html

Local school districts must submit their applications in MEGS+ to receive funds. Detailed guidance will be forthcoming.

To receive funds, districts will submit an application that includes a brief narrative of their most important educational needs; information on how they will provide equitable access to students, teachers, parents, and families; and a budget that outlines their intended use of allocated funds. School districts are encouraged to begin planning to meet these application requirements. There will be additional reporting requirements associated with this grant program, many of which are yet to be defined by USED.

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The uses of these funds are broad and were outlined in MDE memo [#COVID-19-043](#) on April 24, 2020. A full description of allowable uses of funds will be posted on MDE's grants page under "What's New."

These funds are a one-time appropriation and will not be ongoing funding for school districts. MDE strongly recommends that districts reflect carefully about the best uses of these funds, particularly given their technological needs and efforts to preserve their staffing and services to children in a challenging financial environment.

Section 18003 of Division B of the CARES Act provides MDE the opportunity to reserve up to 10 percent of the state ESSER fund award to support allowable activities. MDE will use the allowable reserve to establish an educational equity fund. These dollars will be allocated to eligible local school districts, with the primary purpose of reducing the digital divide across Michigan's school communities. Additional information, including application guidelines and eligibility criteria, will be available in the coming weeks.

MDE will provide updates as more information becomes available. Please email any questions to MDECARES@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance