



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 25, 2020

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

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

SUBJECT: Equitable Services Update for Federal Grants – MEMO #COVID-19-115

On September 11, 2020, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) issued [MEMO #COVID-19-108](#) regarding recent federal decisions against the Interim Final Rule (IFR) for equitable services under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Today, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos shared a letter with State Superintendent Dr. Michael Rice and state school chiefs across the country that the U.S. Department of Education would not appeal these court decisions. Dr. Rice's press release on this issue can be found [here](#).

MDE has announced local school district applications for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund grants. Both the GEER and ESSER applications require local education agencies (LEAs) to engage in timely and meaningful consultation with representatives of each eligible nonpublic school and maintain a copy of the consultation documentation.

LEAs receiving GEER or ESSER funds should provide equitable services to students and teachers in nonpublic school located within the district's boundary based on the number of low-income students attending those nonpublic schools, as stipulated in the plain language of the CARES Act. The equitable services calculation worksheet in the GEER and ESSER applications has been updated to reflect this new development.

The submission date for the ESSER grants is September 30, 2020. GEER grants are due no later than December 30, 2020. Any grants that have been submitted can be returned to the applicant to make necessary modifications based on this new development. To request modifications, email MDE-CARES@michigan.gov with

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“Request to Return [GEER, ESSER Formula, or ESSER Education Equity Grant Application] for Equitable Service Modifications” in the subject line.

Questions concerning this grant can be sent to MDE-CARES@michigan.gov. Please use “equitable services” in the subject line so questions can be addressed as quickly as possible.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors