



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 11, 2020

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

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

SUBJECT: Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund Grant Application
and Information – Memo #COVID-19-107

On behalf of the governor, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is announcing the GEER fund formula grant application totaling \$60,000,000 in available funds for grant awards to eligible districts with more than 50 percent of students who are economically disadvantaged. This grant will provide eligible districts with emergency assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For purposes of this grant, eligible districts include traditional public school districts, public school academies, and intermediate school districts, with the exception of schools of excellence (cyber schools) as defined under MCL 380.552.

Eligible districts will receive approximately \$87 per pupil in each of the following categories: economically disadvantaged students, special education students, and English learners. Click [here](#) for a list of eligible districts and estimated allocations.

Eligible districts will be permitted to apply for these funds beginning September 14, 2020. School district authorized officials will initiate and submit an application in the Michigan Electronic Grant System Plus (MEGS+). Applications are due no later than December 30, 2020.

Applicants will be required to use GEER funds for any of the following activities:

1. Connectivity: Devices, internet access, access to remote services, or other similar purposes.
2. Student mental health: Funding would enhance access to remote and in-person student mental health services.
3. Addressing learning loss: Funding could be used by districts to offer supplementary content and intervention services to mitigate the impacts of learning loss.

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4. Out-of-school-time learning: Funds could be used to support out-of-school-time learning. These expenditures would ensure students have safe spaces to participate in remote education.
5. Remote learning materials and training (digital and non-digital): Funds could address both digital and non-digital content where remote learning continues as an instructional delivery model.
6. Teacher training and curriculum: Funding could be used to provide additional professional development and curriculum modifications that allow districts to effectively facilitate distance learning while expanding their knowledge of the science of teaching.
7. Other health, safety, and wellness needs identified, required, or recommended in the MI Return to School Roadmap.

The GEER fund application will require eligible districts to provide information on how they identified their most important need(s) and to provide a budget detailing how they intend to use these funds. Additionally, as required by the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, applicants must outline how they will provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Please note that GEER funds are distinct from Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, for which the formula and competitive grant applications are due on or before September 30, 2020.

Once submitted, MDE will review and approve applications in a timely manner.

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

Please send questions concerning this grant can be sent to MDE-CARES@michigan.gov. Please use GEER 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