

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MDE)

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund Program Important Information

THE FOLLOWING FORMULA GRANT WILL BE COLLECTED USING THE MICHIGAN ELECTRONIC GRANTS SYSTEM *PLUS* (MEGS+).

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Governor's Office, MDE is administering the GEER Fund formula grant application totaling \$60,000,000 of available funds for grant awards to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that provide services to districts with more than 50 percent economically disadvantages students. Michigan was awarded a Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund grant for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education related entities with emergency assistance as a result of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are Local Educational Agencies, including public school academies and intermediate school districts, or education-related entities within the state the governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students for authorized activities described in section 18003(d)(1) of the CARES Act. Public school academies that were issued a contract under section 552 of the revised school code, MCL 380.552, to operate as a school of excellence that is a cyber school are not eligible for GEER grants.

The target population for the formula grant are economically disadvantaged students, Special Education students, and English language learners.

To be eligible for funding, the school district's concentration of economically disadvantaged pupils, compared to total district enrollment, must exceed 50%. That is, a district is eligible if more than 50% of their total student population is economically disadvantaged. If a student falls in three categories, the district receives three times the per pupil amount. A list of eligible districts with estimated allocations can be found at: <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5236-528117--,00.html>.

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTICIPATION

LEAs must provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools as required under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

REQUIRED COMPONENTS

The GEER Fund Program application consists of assurances, certifications, and narrative statements on the use of funds. Eligible applicants must initiate an application in the MEGS+ and either accept or refuse GEER Funds. Only a MEGS+ Authorized Official (Level 5) may initiate and submit the grant application. To accept GEER Funds, an applicant must:

- (1) check the box indicating acceptance of GEER Fund;
- (2) certify agreement to all assurances and certifications;
- (3) enter brief (3,500 character maximum) need statement specific to the district's emergency educational services due to COVID-19;
- (4) enter a brief impact/outcome statement related to the identified need;
- (5) enter brief (800 character maximum) statement on equitable access to students, staff, and parents/families;
- (6) certify participation of nonpublic/private schools;
- (7) complete budget page information, including budget detail, associated with intended use of GEER Fund and;
- (8) save and submit application. To refuse GEER funds, the applicant must check the box indicating refusal of GEER funds and save the page.

For an applicant to qualify for GEER Fund, the application must be submitted on or before December 30, 2020.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE - \$60,032,673

USE OF FUNDS

GEER Fund allocations are federal grant monies and subject to any and all applicable federal spending, accounting, and reporting requirements. GEER Funds may be used for any purposes listed below:

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Other health, safety, and wellness needs identified, required, or recommended in the MI Return to School Roadmap.

EQUITABLE SERVICES

As required by the federal CARES Act, applicants must outline how they will provide equitable services in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of the ESEA of 1965 to students and teachers in non-public schools. USED provided guidance on providing equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools under the CARES Act Programs on April 30, 2020 (<https://oese.ed.gov/non-public-education-faq/>). An equitable services calculation worksheet is provided to assist districts in determining the proper amount of equitable services that must be provided from the ESSER funding. USED's April 30, 2020 equitable services guidance has been questioned relative to typical distribution of Title I Part A funds, and is currently under review by USED. If USED changes its guidance on Equitable Services districts may have to recalculate, as it may change the district allocation.

DUE DATE

Applications can be submitted at any time after the application is available in MEGS+; however, applications must be submitted using MEGS+ **no later than December 30, 2020** for review.

TIMELINE

GEER Fund applications will be reviewed and approved on a rolling basis. Grant funds will be made available within two weeks of receipt of an approvable application.

The tentative time frame for the operation of this grant program includes these major milestones:

- September 14, 2020 - Application available in MEGS+
- December 30, 2020 - Applications due
- September 30, 2021 - Grant ending date*
- October 30, 2021 - Final Performance Report due
- November 29, 2021 - Final Expenditure Report due

*Grant Period is March 13, 2020 – September 20, 2021. Eligible entities will only use funds for allowable costs incurred on or after March 13, 2020.

Final Expenditure Report due within 60 days for the expenditure of all funds or within 60 days of the grant ending date, whichever comes first.

Additional quarterly reports may be required. Notification of these dates, if any, will be announced as soon as final guidance is issued by the U.S. Department of Education.

LENGTH OF AWARD

Grant start and end dates will be published in the grant award notification.

GRANT NUMBER

201200

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Upon receipt of a Grant Award Notification from MDE, the grantee may claim reimbursement through the Cash Management System (CMS) in accordance with the grant award start date.

REPORTING

The State of Michigan is required to submit quarterly reports to the USED for all ESSER grant programs. The USED has decided to accept the monthly reporting requirements of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA), Pub.L. 109-282, as amended by the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act), Pub.L. 113-101. School districts will not have to submit separate data to fulfill the quarterly reporting requirement.

ASSURANCE OF ACCURACY

If, during the implementation of any funded project, MDE establishes that inaccurate or false information was provided in the application, the grant may be rescinded.

REJECTION OF PROPOSAL

MDE reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received as a result of this announcement.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

In keeping with accountability, transparency, and reporting requirements, any and all portions of a district's GEER Fund application and reports on the use of funds may be publicly posted.

MONITORING VISITS

All subgrantees are subject to onsite or virtual grant review from state or federal auditors. Recipients must maintain and make available, in the event of a monitoring visit, evidence and documentation to support all expenditures.

QUESTIONS

All questions should be directed to the Grants, Contracts and School Support unit by email to MDE-CARES@michigan.gov or to Amanda Stoel, Department Specialist, Office of Systems, Evaluation, and Technology at stoela@michigan.gov. General question can be submitted to MDE-CARES@michigan.gov.

RESOURCES

The U.S. Department of Education frequently posts updated information about the GEER Program on its website – www.ed.gov. GEER guidance is also available on the following website: <https://oese.ed.gov/governors-emergency-education-relief-fund/>.