

June 30, 2020



Updates to the GEER Summer Recovery and ESSER CARES Act Grants



GEER Update- Two Program Adjustments

1. Deadline for use of funds will be extended from August 31 to October 31, 2020.
2. LEAs may deploy innovative instructional models, where a minimum of 75% of the time of the program is conducted face-to-face with students and may include extended learning options, where services can be offered on Saturdays or afterschool.

GEER and ESSER Update- Grants Deadline

- Deadline for submission of Toolkits will be extended from June 30 to July 15, 2020 to provide LEAs additional time to apply and/or make adjustments to the application.

GEER Update- Salaries/Benefits

- GEER funds may be used to pay for the salaries and benefits of:
 - teachers providing summer program instruction
 - school resource officers/guardians at summer program sites
 - school-based administrators, if not already on a 12 month contract
 - other staff required to operate the summer recovery program, if not already on a 12 month contract

GEER Update- Transportation/Meals

Charter schools: Transportation is only required if provided during the school year. Meals must be provided during the program.

Non-public schools: Transportation and meals are required if identified through consultation.

GEER Update- Charter schools

- Charter schools may elect to participate in the district's summer recovery program in lieu of an allocation.

GEER Update- Targeted Students

Assurance 1, Defines the targeted students with the most significant academic need as:

- Students who have been disconnected or hard to reach via distance learning.
- K-3 students in the 2019-20 school year with a substantial deficiency in reading who may be at risk for retention, prioritizing grade 3 students.
- Grade 4 or 5 students who scored a level 1 or 2 on the most recent FSA and are served in a L300 or D or F school.

GEER Update- Secondary Students

- Middle and high school students who have been disconnected or hard to reach via distance learning can be served in the summer recovery program (per the first bullet of Assurance 1).

GEER Update- Submission of Proposals

- If an LEA does not participate, a charter school may submit a proposal to the Department to be considered.
- Private schools may not submit separate proposals to the Department.

GEER and ESSER Update- Assurances for Private Schools

It is not the responsibility of the LEAs to ensure that the *private school's program* meets assurances; rather, it is the responsibility of the LEA to ensure that the *equitable services provided by the LEA* are comparable to the services the LEA provides to the public school students. The needs of the private school students should be identified in consultation.

GEER and ESSER Update- Reimbursement to a Private School

Question 5 of the U.S. Department of Education’s guidance dated April 30, 2020, titled, “Providing Equitable Services to Students and Teachers in Non-Public Schools Under the CARES Act Programs,” states as follows:

- **5. Must an LEA or another public agency maintain control of CARES Act funds used to provide equitable services?** Yes. Control of funds for services and assistance provided to non-public school students and teachers under the CARES Act programs, and title to materials, equipment and property purchased with such funds, must be in a public agency, and a public agency must administer such funds, materials, equipment, and property. In other words, no funds may go directly to a non-public school. In addition, services for non-public school students and teachers must be provided by a public agency directly or through contract with another public or private entity. (Section 18005(b) of the CARES Act).

Based on this guidance, the Department would be unable to authorize any reimbursement directly to a non-public school.

ESSER Updates- Salaries

Under Section 18003(12) of the CARES Act, LEAs may use ESSER formula funds for, “Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in LEAs and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA.” ESSER funds are provided to LEAs to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools in Florida.

- **If the LEA can demonstrate that, due to COVID-19, a need or gap in services developed such that funds are needed to pay teachers for continuity of instructional services, such salaries and benefits would be allowable.**
- **If the district cannot demonstrate that the need arose due to COVID-19, and the instructional services would have been provided regardless of COVID-19, the costs would be unallowable.**

ESSER Update- Indirect Costs

- The Department has authorized the use of ESSER funds for necessary and reasonable costs of administration, including direct and indirect costs.
- ESSER funds are provided to LEAs to address the impact that the COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools in Florida. These funds are intended to provide emergency relief to ensure school districts are equipped to provide instructional services despite the challenges caused by COVID-19 and to assist students who have fallen behind as a result of the pandemic.

To ensure that the funds are used for their intended purpose, the Department would view any administrative costs that exceed five percent (5%) of the district's total allocation as unnecessary and unreasonable.

ESSER Update- Charter Indirect Costs

The total administrative costs an LEA can claim from a charter school allocation may not exceed five percent (5%) of the allocation.

ESSER Update- Private Administrative Costs

The amount of administrative costs to be claimed by the LEA on the amount reserved for equitable services to non-public schools is a topic for consultation. The amount claimed must be reasonable and necessary. The Department would view any administrative costs that exceed five percent (5%) of the equitable services allocation as unnecessary and unreasonable.



Questions?

Main Contacts

Dakeyan “Dre” Graham

Executive Director of Office of Independent Education &
Parental Choice

Dakeyan.Graham@fldoe.org

850-245-0998

Mari “Miki” Presley

Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Finance & Operations

Mari.Presley@fldoe.org

850-245-9426

Melissa Ramsey-Hancock

Vice Chancellor, Strategic Improvement

Melissa.Ramsey@fldoe.org

850-245-0841

