

ESSER Fund Overview

Wyoming State Total Allocation	\$32,562,651
Minimum LEA Distribution	\$29,306,386
Maximum SEA Reservation	\$ 3,256,265
Maximum SEA Administration	\$ 162,813

USDE is granting awards to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with the emergency relief funds to address the impact that Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) **has had, and continues to have**, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

WDE is working to

- Complete the USDE application for the state's allocation of ESSER Funding by May 1.
- Create a district application in the Grants Management System.
- Finalize district allocation amounts.

LEAs

LEAs must provide **equitable services to students** and teachers in **non-public schools** as required under the CARES Act, and in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of the ESEA, as determined through timely and meaningful consultation with representatives of non-public schools located in the LEA boundaries.

- LEA maintains control of funds for services and assistance provided to non-public schools
- LEA has title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with ESSER funds
- LEA provides services directly or through a contract to the non-public school

ESSER Funds Application

The WDE is working on the district applications that could include the request of following information.

- Plans for determining the most important educational needs as a result of COVID-19
- Proposed timeline for providing services and assistance to students and staff
- Plans to use ESSER funds to promote remote learning
- Plans to assess and address student learning gaps resulting from disruption in educational services
- Methodology used to provide services and assistance to non-public schools/students
- Plans for use of funds addressing the digital divide, including securing access to home-based connectivity and remote-use devices, related issues in supporting remote learning for all students
- Assurances:
 - For cooperation with any examination of records with respect to ESSER funds for inspection and examination by authorized individuals
 - Compliance with GEPA section 442 and 427 (removal of barriers to provide equal access), applicable Uniform Guidance and EDGAR requirements

Uses of funds

The following are identified in the CARES Act as allowable uses of funds.

- Any activity authorized by ESEA, IDEA, Perkins, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
- Continuing to provide educational services, such as remote learning, while campuses are closed
- Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of LEA with state, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, or other relevant agencies to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19
- Providing school leaders with resources to address the needs of their schools
- Activities to address the unique needs of disadvantaged student populations
- Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs
- Training and PD for staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious disease
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean LEA facilities
- Planning for and coordinating for long-term closures (how to provide meals to eligible students, technology for online learning to all students, guidance and provision of IDEA, all other education services consistent w/Federal, State, and local requirements)
- Purchasing education technology (hardware, software, and connectivity) that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and instructors--may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment
- Providing mental health services and supports
- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs including classroom or online learning
- Developing and implementing plans for return to normal operations
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in LEA and continuing to employ existing staff
 - “To the greatest extent practicable, continue to compensate its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to COVID-19”

Non-allowable uses of ESSER funds

- Subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals not employed by the SEA or LEA
- Expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations
- Bonuses, merit pay, or similar expenditures, unless related to disruptions or closures resulting from COVID-19