



Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001
www.isbe.net

Darren Reisberg
Chair of the Board

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education

May 11, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

ISBE will submit its application for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund portion of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act within the next few days. Illinois schools are set to receive close to \$570 million.

Ninety percent of those funds will flow through ISBE and be awarded directly to local education agencies based on each LEA's proportion of Illinois Title I, Part A funds. ISBE will release this application in eGMS in the next few days. ISBE will provide a pre-recorded webinar later this week with additional details about the application. If you have questions after reviewing the webinar, please email illinoiscares@isbe.net.

Please note that LEAs must provide equitable services to nonpublic schools by conducting a timely and meaningful consultation with their area nonpublic school officials. ISBE will calculate the nonpublic schools' share of the funds.

While LEAs may use the funds for any expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic, ISBE encourages LEAs to use these funds **to close the digital divide and to provide direct supports for students**.

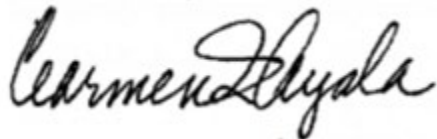
Examples of allowable expenditures include mental health services and supports, summer and extended learning opportunities, technology, meals, and activities to address the needs of students of color, low-income students, homeless students, or youth in care who have been affected by COVID-19. Any activity authorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, or McKinney-Vento Act is an allowable use of this funding. We have received no indication that the "supplement not supplant" rule applies to CARES funds.

The remaining CARES Act funds will be directed by ISBE to provide additional funding in the following six categories: \$33.3 million for laptops and tablets; \$7.1 million for internet connectivity; \$6.5 million for virtual coaching (in support of an estimated 4,000 new teachers who will be entering the teaching profession this fall, some of whom did not get the chance to complete their clinical teaching experience); \$6.5 million for professional development; \$2.8 million for state administration; and \$685,000 for entities that are not eligible for the direct funds due to ineligibility for Title I. We will release these applications as soon as possible and share more information in the days ahead.

The Student Dental Data Reporting system is now available in IWAS. The reporting period to submit 2019-20 student dental data begins May 15 and concludes on June 30, 2020. Due to current restrictions, we understand that districts may face challenges in either obtaining information from students or reporting the dental information into the IWAS tool. Please be advised that ISBE will take no punitive action against a district for failure to submit complete dental reporting information. We ask that districts not withhold report cards from students who are unable to meet dental requirements at this time. For further information on dental reporting please visit [ISBE Student Health](#).

I know many students across the state began taking their Advanced Placement (AP) exams today at home, online. I know you all worked very hard in these courses, never dreaming that your efforts would culminate at your mom's kitchen table, at a desk in your bedroom, or with a laptop on the sofa. I am so proud of each of Illinois' AP scholars, and I have held you in my thoughts today! Do your best, and know that no matter what your score turns out to be, the skills you have developed by persisting through rigorous, college preparatory coursework will benefit you in your next step in life. I wish the best of luck to students who may be continuing AP testing in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carmen I. Ayala". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala
State Superintendent of Education
Illinois State Board of Education