



Illinois State Board of Education

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Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ***Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund - Sec. 18003***

The President signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law on March 27, 2020. The purpose of the CARES Act is to provide states with funding to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus threat.

What this means for districts: Illinois Local Education Agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, that received an allocation under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in fiscal year 2020 are eligible for the relief funds. The amount of funds Illinois LEAs will be eligible for is based on the percentage of Title I, Part A allocated to the LEA in FY 2020.

Start Date: The start date of the program is to be determined. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) must release an application that will allow ISBE to have access to the federal funds. The agency must complete and submit the application, and have it approved by ED. The CARES Act requires that ED must release the state application within 30 days of the effective date. Also, ED will have 30 days to review and approve ISBE's application after it has been submitted.

End date: September 30, 2021

Use of funds:

1. Activities authorized in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins), and McKinney-Vento Act.
2. To address needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English Learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth. Funds can also be used for outreach and service delivery.
3. Providing:
 - Meals to eligible students.
 - Technology for online learning between all students and classroom teachers (including hardware, software, and connectivity).
 - Guidance for meeting the requirements under the IDEA and other educational services (e.g., educators providing services through digital or online platforms, counseling services, and guidance services consistent with federal, state, and local requirements).
 - Mental health services and supports.
 - Summer learning and supplemental after-school programs, including classroom instruction or online learning.

4. Addressing needs of individual schools resulting from the coronavirus and resultant school closures.
5. Efforts between districts and other partners to develop, prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
6. Professional development to minimize the spread of infectious diseases (e.g., sanitation training).
7. Cleaning and sanitizing school and district buildings.
8. Other activities necessary to maintain the operation and continuity of services.

Please keep in mind that the CARES Act states that:

- The LEA must provide equitable services to students and teachers in nonpublic schools. To this end, the LEA must conduct a timely and meaningful consultation with private school officials (Sec. 18005). Please note that ISBE will calculate the nonpublic proportionate equitable share based on the number of nonpublic low-income school children residing in the participating public school attendance area.
- An LEA, state, institution of higher education, or other entity that receives funds under “Education Stabilization Fund” shall, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus (Sec.18006).

Questions to consider regarding potential local use of funds:

- How might my district use these funds to support opportunities for students and staff available within ESSA, IDEA, Perkins, or McKinney-Vento?
- How able is my district to deliver remote learning that reaches all children?
- What are the local needs of the communities that we serve? How might I go about identifying these in partnership with the larger community?
- What are the professional development needs of my teaching staff? Of all staff?
- When will I meet with nonpublic school officials?

Other questions ISBE is researching:

- When can LEAs apply expenditures related to coronavirus (i.e., date of the Act or submittal of grant application)?
- Will LEAs be allowed to carry over dollars that would otherwise need to be returned?

What happens next:

- ISBE is awaiting the release of the application by ED.
- Once the application is received, ISBE will complete and submit it. When ISBE receives an award, LEAs will receive further information regarding the application process and when the LEA can anticipate receiving funds.
- Please submit any questions you may have to illinoiscares@isbe.net.