



Gilmer County Schools

Dr. Shanna Downs, Superintendent

134 Industrial Boulevard
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May 7, 2020

Private School Administrators,

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (Mar. 27, 2020), school districts receiving funds under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund are required to reach out to all eligible private schools regarding the provision of equitable services.

Private schools eligible to receive equitable services include all Georgia non-profit non-public elementary and secondary schools that (A) are accredited, licensed, or otherwise operate in accordance with State law; and (B) were in existence prior to the date of the qualifying emergency for the CARES Act programs. Additionally, in accordance with the Official Code of Georgia (O.C.G.A § 20-2-690), private schools who reported 2019-2020 attendance information to local education agencies (LEAs) will be eligible.

All students and teachers in a non-public school are eligible to receive equitable services under the CARES Act ESSER Fund. Unlike Title I, Part A, equitable services under the CARES Act programs are not based on residence in a participating Title I public school attendance area and are also not limited only to low-achieving students and their teachers. Equitable services under the CARES Act programs are much broader than under Title I, Part A. Equitable services under the CARES Act programs, by definition, may benefit a nonpublic school, such as purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facility, or all students in a nonpublic school, such as any activity authorized under the ESEA.

All private schools are asked to complete the form indicating their intent to participate in CARES Act Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund by using the link <https://bit.ly/3eKGYTn> by **May 20, 2020**. As you respond to this survey online, please do not hesitate to reach out to me to answer questions, provide specific information, or clarify any information.

Sincerely,

Lindy Patterson

Lindy Patterson, Director of Federal Programs
Gilmer County Schools



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Topics to be discussed during consultation include:

Eligibility: Participating non-public schools must be nonprofit K-12 elementary and/or secondary schools in existence before the enactment of the CARES Act. This is verified through 2019-2020 DE1111 submission and Secretary of State Business look-up.

Beneficiaries: The LEA may provide equitable services with CARES Act funds to any students and teachers in non-public schools.

Secular: The LEA must provide equitable services and other benefits, including materials and equipment that are secular, neutral, and nonideological.

Equitable: The LEA must provide services and other benefits for non-public school students and teachers in a timely manner that are equitable in comparison to the services and benefits provided for public school students and teachers.

Proportional: The LEA calculates the proportional share based on the number of children enrolled in each non-public school whose students or teachers participate in the CARES Act programs compared to the number of students enrolled in public schools in the LEA. In Georgia this is provided by the GaDOE using K-12 public and non-public enrollment as of March 5, 2020.

Administrative Costs: The LEA must communicate with the private school the reservation funds that are reasonable and necessary for administering equitable services under the CARES Act programs.

Availability: An LEA must obligate CARES Act funds for equitable services in the fiscal years for which those funds are intended for services to address the impact of COVID-19.

Design and Development: An LEA must consult with appropriate non-public school officials during the design and development of the LEA's activities on relevant issues. The LEA and non-public school officials shall both have the goal of reaching agreement on how to provide equitable and effective services. The LEA must transmit the results of that agreement to the ombudsman (In Georgia completed through the Private School Intent to Participate Form, Affirmation of Notification and Initial Consultation Form and Budget submission.)

Timely: Consultation occurs before an LEA makes any decision that affects the opportunities of nonpublic students and teachers to receive equitable services.

Delivery Mechanisms: Consultation included discussion of service delivery mechanisms an LEA may use to provide equitable services.

Control of Funds: Control of funds and title to materials, equipment, and property must be in public agency (LEA).

Use of Funds: Funds may be used for any activity authorized under ESEA, IDEA, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Perkins and McKinney-Vento in addition to the uses of funds specific to the CARES Act as outlined in Section 18003.



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Procedures: During consultation, LEAs should share local procedures relative to processing and purchasing requests. Both parties should discuss timing and methods for ongoing communication and consultation.

Reporting: Both parties may need to provide information relative to reporting as needed to meet state reporting requirements.

Audits and Monitoring: CARES Act funds are subject to auditing and monitoring at the LEA level.

Disagreement: If the LEA disagrees with the views of the private school officials on the provision of services, it will provide in writing to such private school officials an analysis of the reason(s) why it has chosen not to honor a request.

Complaints: Non-public school officials have a right to file a complaint with the SEA. The complaint form is available on the State Ombudsman webpage.