# Office Hours: May 28th, 2020

1.      Does the application need to be completed in one session or can you save, log out, and return to complete later?

**Answer:** You can save, log out and complete later.

2.      If they are a PreK school we can delete them from the list, correct?

**Answer:** You can use the trashcan icon to delete schools.

3.      Similar to Consolidated application, is there a form for ESSER that needs to be filled out during consultation with non-public schools?

**Answer:** There is a new [ESSER consultation certification](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/04/ESSERF-Certification-and-Agreement.pdf) form.

4.      If we only have an elementary Title I program, do we count kids K-12 for non-public?

**Answer:** You will only count the students that attend the elementary school.  Once the proportionate share has been calculated, the funds can be used to support all grade levels.

5.      If the students reside in a Neighboring District how do we select their home school?

**Answer:** We are creating guidance around this topic. Neighboring districts will need to communicate with each other to determine Title I attendance areas of the students in the neighboring district.  If the student does not reside in a Title I attendance area, those students will not be included in the calculation.  The application captures students outside of the district.

7.      Is the NPS proportionate share calculated for each NPS on that page?

**Answer:** No, the proportionate share is calculated as an aggregate based on the total number of eligible students to determine how much the district needs to set aside.

8.      Where do we find the different ways you can calculate low income students in the NPS?

**Answer:** We are creating guidance around this topic.

9.      Would that be the same for charters? In our District, No HS and MS are Title. Only a handful of our ES schools are Title. Do we only use total ES enrollment (including non-Title) to determine shares for charters? Or, do we use the K-12 enrollment to determine the share for charters?

**Answer:** Charter schools are different in that they are public schools.  It is up to the LEA to determine how resources will be provided, including if charter schools will receive a PPA.  All schools within the LEA are eligible for services.

 10.   So there isn’t an option to use PPA instead of T1 formula for non-public?

**Answer:** The application will calculate the proportionate share based on the requirements under 1117 of ESEA. If a district wants to use the per-pupil formula to calculate the amount that will be set aside for non-public schools, the LEA will need to code the budget items differently. The application has a funding source for the non-public school set aside as well as a general ESSER funding source. LEAs that would like to set aside additional funds for non-public schools the LEA will need to use the general ESSER funding source in addition to the non-public school set aside funding source. This will allow additional funds to be allocated to NPS without impacting the equitable share set aside.  There are conversations happening at the national level that will require time to resolve. If the non-binding guidance is codified, additional changes will need to be made. The Attorney General advised to move forward with what is in statute so the application can be released.  The district should consider reserving some additional funds to make adjustments if needed.  If adjustments need to be made, this could be done through PAR.

11.   Are we budgeting for only the 90% of the total allocation.  The other discretionary 10% to come later?

**Answer:** CDE is still determining how we'll use the 10% state reserve based on stakeholder input. So, it is likely that there will be a separate application for those funds, particularly if those funds are decided to be distributed on a competitive basis.

12.   Are we required to have a parent involvement set-aside or is that just an option?

**Answer:** It is an option.

13.   May I please confirm that we can use the ESSER funds to supplant existing salaries that have been budgeted for or paid out, such as those for counselors, to support mental health needs, or ESL teachers, etc.? As long as the salaries correspond to after March 13, 2020? Thank you for your help.

**Answer:** We are going to talk about this more when we get to allowable uses of funds.**(Salary)**

14.   Will there be an FY 2021-2022 option since funds may be expended through Sept/2022?

**Answer:** The LEA has 27 months to use the funds.  The funds will remain 20-21 funds, but there will not be a need to add another funding year.  If the LEA is not able to expend all of the funds, the additional funds are still available to draw down.

15.   Are the funds available until Sept. 2022 as listed in the CDE guidance?  So, are the only years that we can actually use funds be 19-20 & 20-21?

**Answer:** You will have till 2022 to draw down those funds.If you determine that you cannot expend all of the funds in the first year, they can be carried over.

16.   We were considering holding the ESSERF funds until 2021-2022 since we received CARES Relief this year.  Can we do that?

**Answer;** Your CRF must be expended by 12/31/20.  You do not have the opportunity to use them following that date, so the district should plan for the use of ESSER funds in the 20-21 school year.  Will have until 9/22 to draw down the funds.

17.   So, could we pay for half a year's salary (Fall 2020) out of CRF and the second half (Spring 2021) out of ESSER?

**Answer:** While the funding sources are not subject to SNS, there could be additional considerations in future years. We will talk more specifically about salary during allowable uses of funds.

18.   When is the application process open?

**Answer:** We are striving to have that application open Friday, May 29. An announcement will go out to all the districts when it is open.

19.   If our plans change, how and when can we make changes to the submitted application/budget?

**Answer:**  Once you receive Final Approval, the Post Award Revision process will open up immediately and you can make changes through that system.

20.   Did I miss you covering how we could use a PPA proportionate share rather than T1 formula? For non-publics.

**Answer:** The system is going to calculate proportionate share based on the Title I formula. We ask that you budget it at the NPS level and use the ESSER funding code for additional funding in case we receive additional guidance from the USDE regarding the NPS proportionate share.

21.   So if we want to fund NPs higher than T1 formula would allow, we just change the funding source code?

**Answer:** Correct.

22.   But we would still have to identify the eligible students (boundary and household income) to ensure the funding is at least as much as T1 formula.

**Answer:** Correct.

23.   So if we have a non-public school that won't be able to participate in the proportionate share calc because they are HS & we only serve ES with Title I, then we could put a placeholder for them in the budget side, but what do we do with the activity because we won't have that from them because they wouldn't have gotten any money originally -- so can we just put a placeholder description there & then update it in Post Award?  Sorry -trying to word that correctly.  Basically we will have to re-consult with them if the guidance changes.

**Answer:** That is correct. Best to have a placeholder with a high level description.

24.   So, a lot of work goes into the eligibility determination (both district and NP) and we would still have to do that, right? Even if we go with PPA proportionate share

**Answer:** You will still need to do that. Based on Section 1117 of ESEA, that is the requirement and that is the guidance that CDE is using for right now.

25.   Can we hire staff to manage this using the funds just as we do for Title?

**Answer:** Funds can be used for administration.  This would need to be included in the consultation with the Non-Public School and that you would be withholding a portion of that proportionate share for the administration of the program.

26.   How much did you recommend we withhold for those "placeholders"

**Answer:** We don’t have a dollar recommendation.  We do have the formula for calculating the PPA based on the guidance.  You can run both the proportionate share calculation based on 1117 of ESEA and the proportionate share calculation based on the ESSER non-regulatory guidance and set aside the difference between the two.

27.   Not all non-publics report October count to CDE, so we just have to ask them for that if they are not on the CDE site -- is that correct?

**Answer:** We have been working with the NPS group and they have been reaching out to the schools and asking them to report that data to CDE and receive a school code. If they are not on the list, you will need to work with NPS to get a school code and you can add them to the list.

**Adjusted answer after clarification:** Correct. Not all non-public schools are reported during the student October count. LEA will need to consult with the non-public school to obtain the information needed to determine eligibility.

28.   So, on this slide it says we can spend up to 9/30/2022? But I thought you said we didn't earlier?

**Answer:** July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 is the grant award year. But the statute allows LEAs to access funding for an additional year after the end of the grant term. It is a 27 month grant.

29.   Who has to sign?  Authorized rep or Board?

**Answer:** The Authorized Representative would sign it.

30.   Could the use of these funds on teacher salaries affect comparability?

**Answer:** CDE is taking this question back and it will be added to the FAQ.

31.   And related to COVID 19 could be, reduced state funding from the state in 20-21?

**Answer:** CDE is taking this question back and it will be added to the FAQ

32.   How do you explain how salaries are related to COVID 19 -- CRF does not look to allow teacher salaries because they were not doing something "different" related to COVID per the guidance questions.  Is ESSER different in this regard? Thinking about the decline in revenue

**Answer:** CDE is taking this question back and it will be added to the FAQ

33.   Since the CDC’s recommendations are not local, would the funds be able to be used for their recommendations?

**Answer:** CDE is taking this question back and it will be added to the FAQ

34.   What about trauma informed training?  Would that be acceptable?

**Answer:** CDE is taking this question back and it will be added to the FAQ

35.   Is preschool considered an "other educational services"?

**Answer:** CDE is taking this question back and it will be added to the FAQ.

36.   Just to clarify, I could utilize funds to pay for counselor salaries in the 20-21 school year and provide two explanations: 1. As a result of COVID-19, state funding has reduced. AND 2. Counselors will be supporting the mental health needs of students as they process through the trauma resulting from school closures? And again, this okay, even if the counselors are existing staff.

**Answer:** We would ask you to consider what is the specific need that is emanating from the school closure.  What is causing the additional trauma that resulted from the school closures.  We are expecting a drop in state revenue, so we would like to pay salary for counselors to support student needs that resulted from …. (transition back to in-school, deaths due to COVID,

In addition to the explanation of the need, if those counselors will be paid from another funding source in the subsequent year, the next year would need to demonstrate the precipitous decline in funds.  SNS is not a concern if going back to state/local funds.

 37.   Do teachers fit the scenario above?  thinking no because of the way CRF is looking at that -- they are providing learning still, but in a different way -- is ESSER more flexible here?

**Answer:** CDE is taking this question back and it will be added to the FAQ

38.   So we can use CRF to cover existing staff salaries in FY21 - first half?

**Answer:**  CDE is taking this question back and it will be added to the FAQ

39.   Piggy-backing on the question above, if the Mental Health needs extend into 21-22 can we continue to pay counselors into the 21-22 year?

**Answer:** CDE is taking this question back and it will be added to the FAQ