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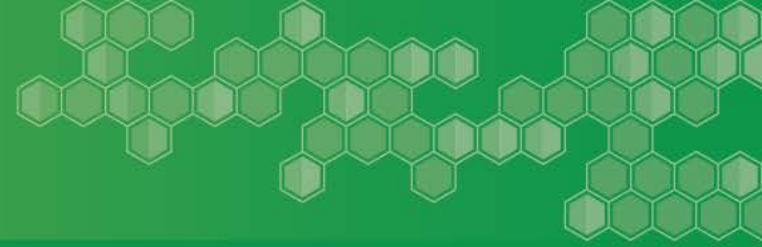
**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

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# Update on the CARES Act

October 16, 2020

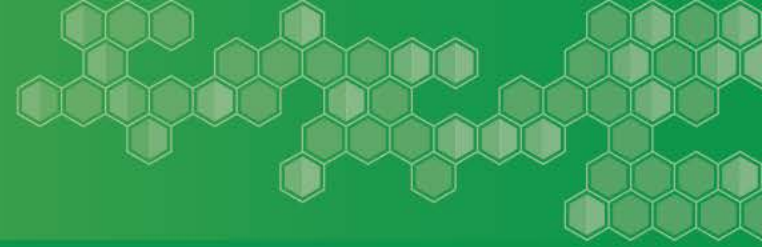
West Slope Superintendents Fall Meeting



## Introductions

- Jennifer Okes, Chief Operating Officer
- Melissa Colzman, Ph.D., Associate Commissioner for Student Learning

# CARES Act Funding Overview for Education



## CARES Act

Education Stabilization Funds (ESF)

CARES Relief Funds (CRF)

Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER)  
~\$121 million

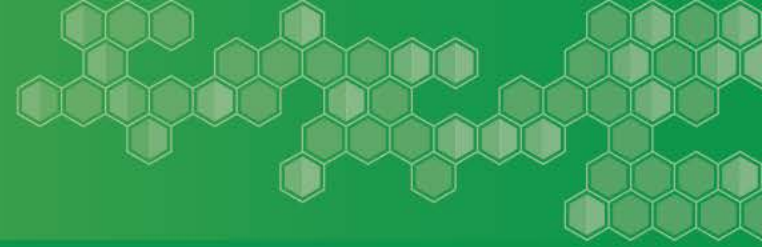
Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)  
~\$44 million

Education Relief  
\$510 million

Formula funding  
to LEAs  
~\$108 million

State Level  
~\$12 million

# Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund



- Over \$13.2 billion to states allocated according to Title I shares
- Colorado has been allocated \$120,993,782
- 90 percent flows to LEAs based on share of Title I
- SEAs may use up to 10% for state level activities for emergency needs to address issues related to COVID-19
- SEAs may use some funds for administration (0.5%)

Colorado ESSER  
**\$120,993,782**

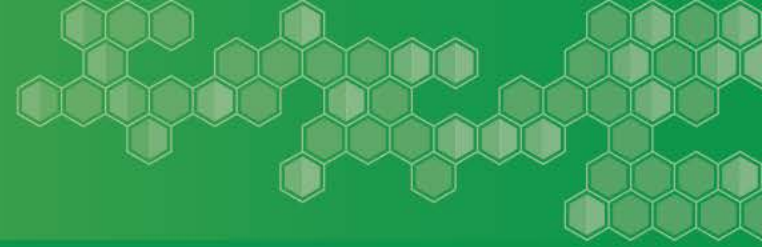
LEAs 90%  
**\$108,894,404**

SEAs 10%  
**\$12,099,378**

SEA Admin  
**\$604,969**



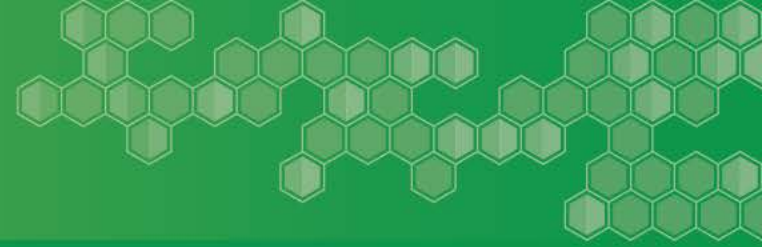
# LEA ESSER Allocations



- CDE must allocate a minimum of \$108,894,404 (90%) of ESSER funds to LEAs
- LEAs must apply by December 2020
- Initial award period is from March 13, 2020 through June 30, 2021
- LEAs have until September 30, 2022 to expend funds
- SEAs must award funds within one year of receiving funds from the U.S. Department of Education.



# Allowable Use of Funds



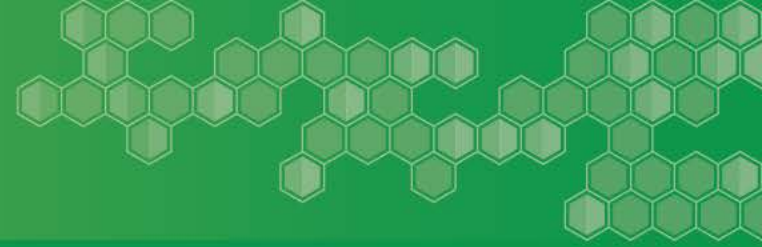
Any activity authorized by ESEA, IDEA, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, the Perkins CTE Act, or the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

Examples of allowable activities include:

- coordination with public health
- purchasing educational technology
- planning for long term closures
- training and supplies for sanitation
- mental health support
- summer school and after school programs
- funds for principals to address local needs
- other activities to continue school operations and employment of existing staff



# ESSER State Level Funds



- CDE may reserve no more than \$12,099,378 (10%) of ESSER funds for state level activities
- Of the state reserve, CDE may use no more than \$604,969 (½ of 1%) for administrative purposes
- The state reserve is to be used for emergency needs as determined by the SEA to address issues related to COVID-19
- Allowable uses available on the CDE CARES webpage:  
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/caresact>

# First Round of State Set Aside ESSER Funds

- Commissioner Anthes, based on input from the State Board of Education and Stakeholders, determined that \$4.6 million of the state reserve will be directed to school districts, BOCES and Tribes that received little or no relief funding in LEA distribution.
- The \$4.6 million will be distributed in the following ways:
  - \$750,000 to help BOCES with gaps in their special education funding and to provide operational support for BOCES with brick-and-mortar schools.
  - \$70,000 to support educational needs of the Colorado Tribes.
  - \$320,000 for 11 districts to support educational needs of the Native American students.
  - \$1.5 million for districts that did not receive or received a very small allocation from the 90% allocation.
  - \$2 million for districts, BOCES and Tribes for connectivity to broadband.
- The use of the remaining state set aside funds will be determined by the Commissioner later in the fall of 2020.



# Connectivity Supports for Colorado

- A public-private partnership with the Governor's Office, Attorney General's Office and Colorado Department of Education in coordination with internet service providers and other community focused organizations to provide broadband access to all students with remote learning needs for the 2020-21 school year.
- Two major programs:
  - Project 10Million, which will provide up to 34,000 low-income student households in Colorado with a free WiFi hotspots and 100GB of data per year for free.
  - Connecting Colorado Students Grant (CCSG) Program, which will provide \$2 million in grant funding to help school districts provide broadband access to low-income families and school staff.

# Connecting Colorado Students Grant (CCSG) Program

- Applicants may apply for:
  - Up to \$15,000 in funding for individual student and teacher connectivity; and/or
  - Up to \$150,000 for projects to expand or create access for a geographical area, to help support the development of broadband infrastructure to connect students and teachers.
- Priority Considerations
  - Priority for this funding opportunity will be given to applicants that:
  - Serve a high percentage of students who are eligible for free and reduced lunch; and
  - Serve a high percentage of students with little to no access to broadband.
- Eligibility
  - Funds are available to education providers who can apply on behalf of individual schools, or with a community partner as an education-related entity.

# Providing Equitable Services to Students and Teachers in Non-public Schools

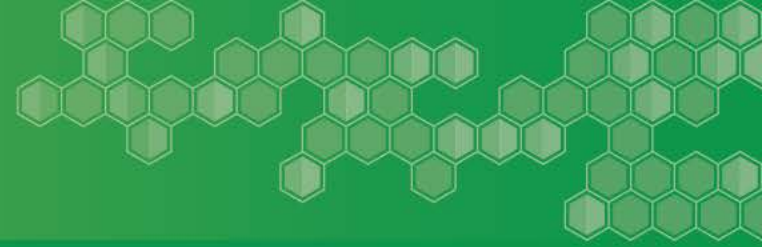
- The U.S. Department of Education published guidance and then an [Interim Final Rule \(IFR\)](#) regarding equitable services under the CARES Act that seemed at odds with the plain language of the CARES Act.
- Last month, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued an [opinion](#) and an [order](#) vacating the IFR. The USDE has indicated that it will abide by the court's ruling.
- Accordingly, the IFR is no longer in effect and the process for calculating equitable services described in the CARES Act has been restored.
- Because the IFR is no longer in effect, LEAs must calculate proportionate share “in the same manner as” Title I funds in order to be in compliance with the CARES Act.

# Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)

- \$5-6 million for dramatically increasing capacity for [Colorado Empowered Learning](#).
- \$3 million investment in educator recruitment and retention to provide stability for school districts through the Quality Teacher Recruitment program.
- RISE Grant: Close to \$33 million in grants to school districts, public schools, public institutions of higher education, and other education-related entities to support equity and innovation to address the COVID-19 crisis.
- Awards between \$250,000 and \$4,000,000, depending on the size of the applicant, number of children served, and quality of the application. Funds are anticipated to be awarded in two rounds:
  - 1st Grant Application Deadline: October 17, 2020 at 5 pm MT
  - Grant awards will be announced by November 6, 2020
  - 2nd Grant Application Deadline: December 19, 2020 at 5 pm MT
  - Grant awards will be announced by January 22, 2021

# Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Update

# Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)



- Colorado received \$1.674 billion
- Governor distributed funds to variety of purposes, including:
  - \$510 million for distributions to school districts, facility schools and BOCES
  - \$37 million transferred to State Education Fund for increased number of at-risk pupils due to COVID-driven recession
- School districts, CSI and facility schools received funds on a per pupil basis and BOCES received \$25,000 each
- For expenditures between March 1 and Dec. 30, 2020
- Funds are to facilitate compliance with COVID-19-related public health measures and mitigate the second-order effects of COVID-19 through the provision of economic support

- **Q2 Reporting Results**

- 130 Districts out of 178 Reported

- Do Not Use Category R (Other)

- All Charter School Expenditures Need to be Combined with District Expenditures

- **Q3 Final Report**

- No EXTENSIONS, Report is due to [GFRFF@cde.state.co.us](mailto:GFRFF@cde.state.co.us) no later than JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

- Please utilize your Q2 report, for those that used old format, I will be providing a new format (via email).

- District General Ledger will be required with Q3 report to substantiate costs.

- **RETURN OF FUNDS**

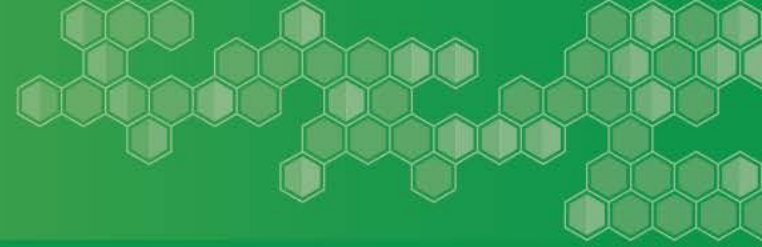
- CDE has been asked to identify any funds that will not be used so these can be reallocated.

- For unspent funds as of 12/30/2020, funds will be required to be returned no later than 1/8/2021.

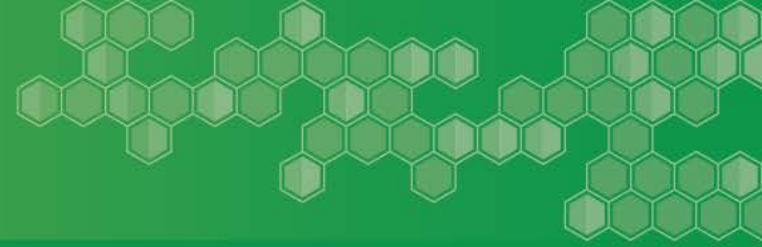
- Thirty-seven million dollars from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, allocated by the governor to the Colorado Department of Education for Colorado public school expenditures incurred to respond to second-order effects of the COVID-19 emergency, in particular the increased number of at-risk students due to the COVID-19-driven recession.
- The governor has directed that Colorado schools shall use federal money in accordance with federal law to, among other things, facilitate distance learning and social distancing for in-person contact hours, mitigate lost learning, provide additional resources and supports to respond to the unexpected increase in at-risk students due to the COVID-19 emergency, and provide economic support in connection with the COVID-19 emergency to stimulate the economy by supporting Colorado's workforce through free instructional hours for the kindergarten through twelfth grade education system.



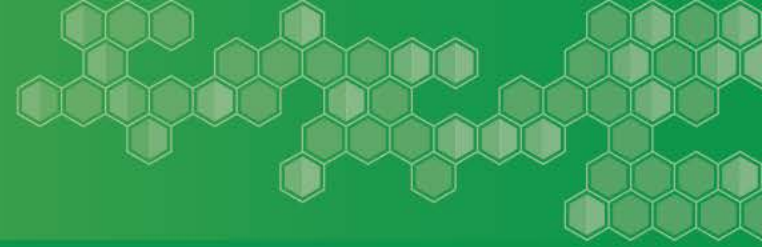
# October 2020 State Share Payment



- Legislative Council staff included these increased at-risk counts into the Total Program projections for each district.
- These funds are part of the State Share of Total Program and not in addition to this funding.
- Districts will receive the same monthly total amount of state share in October as was received in the months of July – September 2020.
- The October payment will have split funding between grant codes 3110 (State Share) and 5012 (CRF K-12 At-Risk Pupils).
- These two amounts will total the regular monthly state share amount.
- *Example:*
  - *District A receives a monthly state share payment of \$200,000. The district's proportionate amount of the \$37M is \$30,000. The October payment will be \$170,000 from 3110 and \$30,000 from 5012. The total payment remains \$200,000.*



- Increased At-Risk projections were developed using information from the prior recessions.
- Using CRF funding was done to cover the State's increased costs of higher numbers of at-risk pupils due to the COVID-related economic recession.
- This does not negatively impact the December/January true-up of Total Program and State Share for districts.
- This does require districts to do additional reporting per the next slide.



The district allocation as reported for Grant Code 5012 in the October State Share payment is from Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). Therefore:

- These funds are subject to the CRF Allowable Use Guidance located at: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/caresact/crf-allowableexpenditures>
- Districts will need to report how these funds were spent.
  - A separate reporting mechanism, similar to the CRF reporting structure will be used.
- These funds will need to be used prior to December 30, 2020.