June 11th, Office Hours

1. Could you please explain exactly what the last bullet on this slide means?
   1. Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation and continuity of services in LEAs and to continuing the employment of their existing staff

**Answer:** This could be to continue to employ existing staff. We are interpreting that to mean that the district could use these funds to pay for salary and benefits, Yes, if reasonable and necessary for the purposes of continuing educational services during school closures or for implementing a plan for return to normal operations, and incurred during the award period between March 13, 2020 and June 30, 2021 [CARES Act, Section 18003(12) - other activities necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services and continuing to employ the existing staff of the LEA] and as long as funds are not subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the LEA, or expenditures related to state or local teacher/faculty unions or associations.

1. Can you share more on what flexibility we can expect with the post-award revisions process? Will it be similar to the Consolidated Application? Or should we wait to submit our ESSER application until we are 100% confident on the allocations?

**Answer:** The PAR process is similar to ConsApp in that you can submit your application and we will review and provide feedback. Working to ensure the PAR process becomes available as soon as granted final approval. Having your 100% confident is ideal, but not always possible. If the district has not determined how all funds will be spent or completed consultations, can submit line items for projected expenditures.

1. This question is more about CARES Act funding than ESSER...Who is the best positioned at CDE to answer questions about the allowable use of CARES Act funds?

**Answer:** CARES Act has multiple funding streams underneath it. We have mostly been talking about the ESSER Funds. CRF, we can try to answer. [CDE presented an update on the 10% of the ESSER funds and CRF to the SBE today](https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeboard/watchlive). If you would like to watch those videos, recordings are available at www.cde.state.co.us/cdeboard/watchlive. Jennifer Okes is overseeing CRF. CRF funds must be expended by December 30, 2020.

1. I wanted to know if the funds could be used for purchases to be made in 21-22.

**Answer:** CRF funds must be expended by December 30th, 2020.

1. Can CRF be used to reimburse for FY20 expenditures related to COVID?

**Answer:** Yes you can but there are restrictions that need to be met.

1. CRF: can items to be used in 21-22 be purchased before December 31, 2020

**Answer:** CDE will have to take this one back.

1. CDE's web site says this in the section about non-public schools:LEAs that receive funds from ESSER or GEER must provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools “in the same manner as” they do with Title funds. Under Title I, Districts provide “equitable services” to non-public school students and teachers by allocating a proportionate share of Title funds to non-public schools. The proportionate share used to provide equitable services to non-public schools is based upon the number of students in poverty who live within the district’s participating school attendance areas but attend non-public schools. Yet I did not see any provision in the GEER contract regarding services to non-public schools.

**Answer:** There needs to be consultation, we are usure of how though at this time. [The Governor's office is using this link to provide updates on GEER](https://www.colorado.gov/governor/news/gov-polis-coloradans-launch-covid-relief-fund): www.colorado.gov/governor/news/gov-polis-coloradans-launch-covid-relief-fund

1. When would you expect to see a final ESSER $$ allocation?

**Answer:** We don't anticipate changes from p[reliminary to final for ESSER](http://www.cde.state.co.us/caresact/relieffund). www.cde.state.co.us/caresact/relieffund

1. In the case of social distancing guidelines, and we can only fit a certain number of students on a bus, can ESSER funds (or CRF) be used to purchase busses and hire drivers to ensure all kids can get to school? Also, can we purchase a modular to house our health clerks/nurses to hold sick students until their parents can pick them up so that they aren't in office spaces, etc.
2. **Answer:** CDE will take this question back.
3. Where would we find allocations for GEER funds???

**Answer:** [The Governor's office is using this link to provide updates on GEER](https://www.colorado.gov/governor/news/gov-polis-coloradans-launch-covid-relief-fund): www.colorado.gov/governor/news/gov-polis-coloradans-launch-covid-relief-fund

1. CRF question: We are putting in HVAC systems into schools to allow us to extend the school year if needed. It had been mentioned to our CFO that air filtration , air systems could qualify. Do you have any idea

**Answer:** CDE will have to take this one back.

1. Do you think that curriculum with an online piece would be allowable with the CRF funds?

**Answer:** CDE will have to take this one back.

1. Here are the details behind my CRF question:  A school principal asked me if he could purchase software for at-risk students for 20-21 AND 21-22 as long as both years' software was purchased by December 31, 2020.

**Answer:** CDE will have to take this one back.

1. Can funds be used to offset teachers salaries and benefits to get professional development and prepare for on-line learning during the late March 2020 period?

**Answer:** Only speaking to ESSER funds. There is some flexibility provided to the district to use funds for any activity necessary to continue operations. We are interpreting that to mean that Yes, if reasonable and necessary for the purposes of continuing educational services during school closures or for implementing a plan for return to normal operations, and incurred during the award period between March 13, 2020 and June 30, 2021 [CARES Act, Section 18003(12) - other activities necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services and continuing to employ the existing staff of the LEA] and as long as funds are not subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the LEA, or expenditures related to state or local teacher/faculty unions or associations.

1. The ESSER website states the period of grant funding is: LEAs can access funds through September 30, 2021 and will have one year beyond this date to spend the funds. Can we access funds before spending. Or only for reimbursement?

**Answer:** The funds will be similar to Title I. They are for the purpose of reimbursement. IF you are not able to spend all of the funds by September 2021, there is an additional year to draw down the funds.

1. In which case, must LEAs extend funds to nonpublic schools to meet their expenses prior to being reimbursed by CDE with ESSER funds?

**Answer**: Exact same as other federal funds. You will be getting reimbursed for any expenses that have been incurred. This is the same for all Title programs.

1. Can you let me know which link references information on GEERS?

**Answer:** [The Governor's office is using this link to provide updates on GEER](https://www.colorado.gov/governor/news/gov-polis-coloradans-launch-covid-relief-fund): www.colorado.gov/governor/news/gov-polis-coloradans-launch-covid-relief-fund

1. Who is the best contact at CDE for strategizing on the best use of the variety of CARES funding sources?

**Answer:** You can reach out to your Support Coordinator or Regional Contact.