

USE OF FUNDS - PAYING STAFF

Q: Can these funds pay for the hourly wage of employees (CNP employees, custodians, central office personnel, SPED employees) who have worked since the school closing to keep our system running and working for our students to continue with academic lessons?

A: Yes.

Q: Can these funds be used for a counselor salary for social and emotional support for students? What about for a position to coordinate distance education?

A: Yes, providing mental health services and supports is an allowable use of funds.

Q: My school system continues to pay long-term subs as we did our full-time employees. Is this reimbursable?

A: Yes.

Q: Our school system paid hazard pay to our lunch workers who served meals during the school closure. Is this reimbursable?

A: Yes.

Q: Our school policy requires time and a half pay for employees required to provide essential functions. Is this allowable?

A: Yes, incentive funds is an allowable use of funds.

Q: Is it allowable to pay support employees that had to come in to work during the closure?

A: Yes, incentive pay is an allowable use of funds.

USE OF FUNDS – OTHER

Q: Does the CARES funding cover technology for teachers as well as students? Can it be used to purchase MiFis for faculty working from home?

A: Yes, education technology, including connectivity devices for students and teachers are allowable expenses.

Q: Can this funding be used to cover the costs of transportation for summer school, summer meal distribution, and after-school continuous learning?

A: Yes, these are all allowable expenses.

Q: Can this funding be used for the 1:1 device ratio and internet connectivity?

A: Yes, devices and internet connectivity are allowable expenses.

DISTRIBUTION/RECEIPT OF FUNDS

- Q:** When will the school systems know the allocation they will receive for the ESSER Incentive Funds? Competitive funds?
- A:** Awards for ESSER Incentive Funds will be approved by BESE at its June meeting.
- Q:** Will LEAs be given guidance about sending funds to their Type 1 schools? Will the LEA be encouraged to pass funds to the Type 1 schools?
- A:** Each LEA has discretion to decide how funds are dispersed across the districts and/or schools. This is a local level decision.
- Q:** Should the LEA apply for charter funding within our application based on their needs?
- A:** Yes, the LEA can include the needs of charters it authorizes within its application.

TIME PERIOD OF GRANT

- Q:** What is the grant period for the ESSER funds?
- A:** May 1, 2020 - September 30, 2022. Pre-award costs are allowable for expenses incurred from March 13, 2020 to April 30, 2020.

NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Q:** What is the timeline for when non-public schools will be notified about and be able to access the Governor's Emergency Education Fund and the ESSER funding?
- A:** At this time, we do not have information about the Governor's Emergency Education Fund. School systems must consult with nonpublic schools about ESSER Formula Funds before submitting.
- Q:** When calculating the public and the nonpublic district counts, do we include Pre-K students or just K-12?
- A:** When calculating the equitable share, school systems should use the K-12 count.
- Q:** When we submitted the student population for public and nonpublic schools on the Equitable Share page, the allocation provided did not allow for indirect cost. Is the indirect cost subtracted when the budgets are completed for the nonpublic?
- A:** Indirect costs are calculated on the total budget.

CFDA/AFR

- Q:** What is the CFDA# for these funds?
- A:** **84.425D**

COMPETITIVE/INCENTIVE/FUND STREAM

- Q:** Will school systems have to complete this process twice? Once for ESSER Formula and once for Incentive?
- A:** If school systems receive additional ESSER funding, they will budget those funds within the existing Strong Start 2020 Application.
- Q:** Will Strong Start competitive funds operate like Redesign? Meaning the LEA will receive a portion of the amount requested and then prioritize best use of that portion?
- A:** Similar to Super App and Redesign, school systems will receive an award letter that outlines allowable use of the award funds.
- Q:** Are school systems required to complete a GEPA Section 427 statement for the ESSER funds – OR just if we apply for ESSER incentives?
- A:** The GEPA statement is required for all funding within the Strong Start 2020 Application.
- Q:** Please give an example around the Incentive funds. If the state pot is 25 million-what would my school system's award total be for the 10% incentive funds?
- A:** ESSER Incentive funds will be awarded based on need to fund eligible priorities.

CURRICULUM/PARTNERS

- Q:** Can we use this funding to cover resources/licenses from vendors?
- A:** Yes, if these resources and licenses align with allowable activities.
- Q:** Can a school system use ESSER funds to adopt a high quality curriculum for the district where they currently don't have one, including the online portion?
- A:** Yes.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION/COMPLETION

- Q:** Are ESSER funds subject to supplement not supplant guidelines?
- A:** No.
- Q:** What is a flexible calendar?
- A:** Please refer to the [Maximizing Learning Time Through Adaptive and Flexible Plans Guidance](#).
- Q:** What guidance will school systems receive for clear next steps for seniors and recent graduates?
- A:** Please refer to the [Student Promotion and Planning Supports Guidance](#).
- Q:** If Strong Start incentive funds are not being requested, do the yes/no priority statements under each domain have to be filled in?
- A:** School systems must respond to all priority statements to submit the application.

Q: If Strong Start incentive funds are being requested, must "yes" be the answer for all the priority statements to have a chance to receive incentive funds?

A: Yes, school systems must commit to all of the priority statements to be eligible for incentive funds.

Q: In the guidance from LDE, is 1:1 referring to per household or per student? Is pre-k included?

A: The guidance is for 1:1 student to device ratio for preK to grade 12.

Q: Who can districts contact to purchase hot spots beyond the list provided in the tech guide?

A: Please email EdTech@la.gov for additional guidance.

Q: Where can I access a list of EIC codes?

A: The list of EICs is available within the application and also within the Strong Start 2020 Planning Guide.

OTHER

Q: According to the webinar, a mental health screener for all students and health consultation supports will be provided by the department for Strong Start 2020. Do you know the name of the screener and the supports that will be provided?

A: We will share this information with school systems when available.