



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Education &  
Early Development

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**Thursday, February 18, 2021**

**Senate Finance Subcommittee on the Department of Education and Early Development**

*Follow-up on Committee Member Comments*

Prepared by DEED Staff

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**1. Provide a breakdown of the FY2021 Management Plan carryforward footnote for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Acts (Slide 2 – Fund Source Breakdown by Fund Category)**

Enclosed please find a revised slide 2. The footnote identified the FY2021 Management Plan including carryforward of federal receipts for CARES Act funds as \$34,100,800 - the correct amount is \$34,530,692.

**Attachment 1** shows the CARES allocation, expenditures, and balance for each school district. The following amounts were carried forward from FY2020 to FY2021:

- a. \$31,366,849 of Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) I Funds
- b. \$3,163,843 of Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) I Funds

The State of Alaska's CRRSA funds totaled \$168,111,100. The additional federal receipt authority for FY2021 was approved by the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee on January 18, 2021. DEED modified FY2021 Management Plan to include this funding and it was allocated as follows:

- c. \$159,719,422 of ESSER II Funds
  - i. \$143,747,480 to the Local Education Agencies (School Districts) – **Attachment 2** provides the allocation by school district
  - ii. \$15,173,345 to the State Education Agency (Department of Education & Early Development (DEED))
- d. \$8,181,720 of GEER II Funds

**2. Can the State use appropriations for School Debt Reimbursement and Regional Education Attendance Areas and Small Municipal School District School (REAA) Fund toward the CARES and CRRSA Maintenance of Effort calculation? Is the amount requested for School Debt Reimbursement and REAA Fund in the Governor's FY2022 budget going to be sufficient to meet Maintenance of Effort?**

**CARES Act**

Under the CARES Act, a State must maintain support for elementary and secondary education and State support for higher education in each of fiscal years (FY) 2020 and 2021 at least at the level of such support that is the average of the support for elementary and secondary education

and higher education provided in the three fiscal years preceding the date of enactment of the CARES Act (FYs 2017, 2018, 2019).

For the baseline data on the CARES Act Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Provision, the levels of State support for elementary and secondary education for state fiscal years are solely based on the amount of funds provided through the State of Alaska's primary elementary and secondary education funding formula (aka Foundation Formula). This follows the FAQ provided by the U.S. Department of Education and is consistent with the MOE calculations the State uses on other federal ESEA/ESSA and IDEA programs. In addition, the levels of State support for higher education is based on the Unrestricted General Funds (UGF) provided to the University of Alaska.

**Attachment 3** provides the State of Alaska's MOE baseline submittal packet from September 2020, which shows the amounts and backup support for those amounts.

Since this baseline data has been submitted to the federal government and used in calculating the FY2020 state-level CARES Act MOE requirement, that was submitted at the end of December 2020, it cannot be changed and will be the same baseline data the State of Alaska will use for the FY2021 state-level CARES Act MOE submittal. That said, additional items such as the State's on-behalf pension contributions or School Debt Reimbursement cannot be used in the calculation.

For the FY2020 state-level MOE, the State of Alaska met the MOE on levels of State support for elementary and secondary education based on the aggregate basis. For the levels of State support for higher education, the State of Alaska met the FY2020 state-level MOE based on the full-time equivalent enrollment basis.

#### **CRRSA Act**

The MOE requirement under the CRRSA Act differs from the MOE requirement under the CARES Act. Under CRRSA, a State must maintain support for elementary and secondary education and higher education in FY2022 based on the proportional share of the State's support for elementary and secondary education and higher education relative to the State's overall spending averaged over FYs 2017, 2018, and 2019.

States have been told that they will be submitting new baseline data, but the U.S. Department of Education has not yet released guidance on how the new baseline data will be calculated and the timeline to receive that guidance is still to be determined.

**Attachment 4** provides a summary of CARES and CRRSA Act Terminology Definitions for the committee's reference.

**3. Provide the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education's (ACPE) position on changing the loan forgiveness amount for teachers teaching in rural Alaska**

ACPE is open to conversations with the Legislature on changing this provision.

**4. Provide the following information regarding the Teacher Education Loan Program:**

**How does the program work / how is it implemented;**

**How many people have utilized the program;**

**How many loans have been forgiven;**

**How much money is in this program;**

**Funding source / funding information / fund total;**

**Teacher retention statistics related to the program.**

Enclosed please find the information requested on the Teacher Education Loan Program.

**5. Provide data on increased usage of the Alaska Library Network due to correspondence schooling.**

Alaska Digital Library – 23% increase in checkouts of ebooks and audiobooks by library patrons in 2020 as compared to 2019

CY2019 checkouts 505,207

CY2020 checkouts 621,328

Alaska Digital School Library – 27% increase in checkouts of ebooks and audiobooks by students in 18 school districts in FY2020 as compared to FY2019

FY2019 checkouts: 11,362

FY2020 checkouts: 15,569

Tumblebooks – 44% increase in e-books checked out or read by students in FY2020 as compared to FY2019

FY2019 checkouts: 41,136

FY2020 checkouts: 59,214

BrainPop – 35% increase in number of BrainPop sessions students accessed in 2020 as compared to 2019

CY2019 sessions: 287,045

CY2020 sessions: 386,101

Live Homework Help (LHH) –

Monthly student tutoring sessions on LHH from Sept to Nov 2019 was 2,494. Monthly student tutoring sessions on LHH from Feb to April 2020 was 3,591. This is a 31% increase in usage as the COVID-19 pandemic hit last spring. Monthly usage surged during spring of 2020:

FY2020	LHH Sessions	Hours
July	584	270
August	433	163
September	713	272
October	915	361
November	866	315
December	713	272
January	728	245
February	1,192	414
March	1,015	388
April	1,384	567
May	595	226
June	573	257
Total	9,711	3,748