



February 9 & 11, 2022

House Finance Subcommittee Hearing – COVID Relief Funding Update

Follow-up on Committee Member Comments

Prepared by DEED Staff

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February 9, 2022, Follow-Up

Provide the formula used to determine federal COVID Relief allocations for districts that do not receive Title I-A funds.

The Aleutian Region, Pelican, and Skagway School Districts are not eligible to receive Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds under the federal guidance that directed the funding be allocated based on Title I-A. Aleutian Region was estimated to get \$5,000 (they are eligible for Title I-A funds, but since they do not accept these funds they are not able to get an ESSER allocation); and Pelican and Skagway do not qualify to receive Title I-A.

When the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act was enacted, the Department of Education and Early Development's (DEED) Commissioner Johnson provided ESSER I State Educational Agency (SEA) Reserve funds to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since Aleutian Region would have received \$5,000, DEED compared their FY2021 OASIS ADM to Pelican and Skagway to provide the following ESSER I funding allocations to these three districts:

| District | ESSER I SEA Reserve Allocation |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Aleutian Region | \$5,000 |
| Pelican | \$3,063 |
| Skagway | \$6,726 |

When the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was enacted, Commissioner Johnson again wanted to provide some funding to these three districts since they did not receive an ESSER II allocation, and when looking at the overall federal COVID relief allocations, established of floor of \$100,000, which resulted in Tanana and Yakutat School Districts also receiving an additional allocation under the ESSER II SEA Reserve.

| District | ESSER II SEA Reserve Allocation |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Aleutian Region | \$71,904 |
| Pelican | \$87,211 |
| Skagway | \$56,491 |
| Tanana | \$61,165 |
| Yakutat | \$40,827 |

Provide the list of all non-public schools in Alaska. Indicate which of the schools participated in EANS I and which received air purifiers.

| Non-Public School | Grade Span | City | Participated in EANS I | Received Air Purifiers |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Amazing Grace Academy | PK-12 | Palmer | | |
| Anchor Lutheran | PK-8 | Anchorage | | Yes |
| Anchorage Christian Schools | PK-12 | Anchorage | | Yes |
| Anchorage Junior Academy (Seventh-day Adventist) | PK-8 | Anchorage | | Yes |
| Anchorage Montessori School | PK-6 | Anchorage | Yes | |
| Anchorage Waldorf School | PK-8 | Anchorage | | Yes |
| Birchwood Christian School | K-12 | Chugiak | | |
| Bristol Bay Christian Learning Center | K-12 | King Salmon | | |
| Catholic Schools of Fairbanks | PK-12 | Fairbanks | Yes | |
| Cook Inlet Academy | PK-12 | Soldotna | | |
| Dillingham Adventist School | K-8 | Dillingham | | |
| Eagle River Christian School | PK-12 | Eagle River | | |
| Fairbanks Montessori School | Pk-K | Fairbanks | | Yes |
| Fairhill Christian School | PK-8 | Fairbanks | | |
| Faith Community Christian School | PK-8 | Juneau | | |
| Far North Christian School | PK-12 | Fairbanks | | Yes |
| Golden Heart Christian School | Gr1-8 | Fairbanks | | |
| Grace Christian School | K-12 | Anchorage | | Yes |
| Grace Lutheran School | PK-8 | Kenai | | |
| Holy Rosary Academy | K-12 | Anchorage | | |
| Juneau Montessori School | Pk-K | Juneau | | Yes |
| Juneau Seventh Day Adventist Christian School | Gr1-8 | Juneau | | |
| Kodiak Christian School | PK-8 | Kodiak | | Yes |
| Living Word Academy | Unknown | Delta Junction | | |
| Lumen Christi | Gr7-12 | Anchorage | Yes | Yes |
| Nikaitchuat Ilisagviat | PK-5 | Kotzebue | | |
| Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School | PK-8 | Wasilla | | |
| Pacific Northern Academy | PK-8 | Anchorage | | Yes |
| Sitka Adventist School | Unknown | Sitka | | |
| St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | PK-6 | Anchorage | Yes | Yes |
| St. John Orthodox Christian School | PK-8 | Eagle River | Yes | Yes |
| Summit Christian Academy | PK-5 | North Pole | | Yes |
| Valley Baptist Academy | Pk-K | Juneau | Yes | |
| Whitestone Farms Training Center / Whitestone H.S. | K-12 | Delta Junction | | |
| Wings Christian Academy | PK-12 | Kenai | | |
| World Harvest Christian School | K-12 | Eagle River | | |

Expand on how the ARP Act Homeless Children and Youth (HCY) funds were sub-granted out. Clarify how the funds can be used to support homeless children and youth.

ARP Homeless I Distribution

This first disbursement was designed to provide funding to States immediately as a supplement to their McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) funds, so that States could address urgent needs of homeless children and youth—including academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs—and so States and school districts could increase capacity by hiring staff, dedicating resources, and planning partnerships with community-based organizations, among other strategies. Funds were provided to the five districts who are current McKinney-Vento grant recipients.

ARP Homeless II Distribution

ARP Homeless II funds were provided to 20 school districts via a formula that used the district's allocation under Title I-A and the number of identified homeless children and youth.

ARP Homeless I and II Uses of Funds

ARP Homeless funds are to be used to identify children and youth experiencing homelessness, provide them with assistance to attend school and participate fully in school activities, and provide them with wraparound services. The U.S. Department of Education has stated that both ARP Homeless I and II funds can be used for “any expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, or educational success of homeless children and youth in order to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities.”

These activities may include any expenses necessary to facilitate the identification, enrollment, retention, and educational success of homeless children and youth, such as:

- providing wraparound services (which could be provided in collaboration with and/or through contracts with community-based organizations, and could include academic supports, trauma-informed care, social-emotional support, and mental health services);
- purchasing needed supplies (e.g., PPE, eyeglasses, school supplies, personal care items);
- providing transportation to enable children and youth to attend classes and participate fully in school activities;
- purchasing cell phones or other technological devices for unaccompanied youth to enable the youth to attend and fully participate in school activities;
- providing access to reliable, high-speed internet for students through the purchase of internet-connected devices/equipment, mobile hotspots, wireless service plans, or installation of Community Wi-Fi Hotspots (e.g., at homeless shelters), especially in underserved communities;
- paying for short-term, temporary housing (e.g., a few days in a motel) when such emergency housing is the only reasonable option for COVID-safe temporary housing and when necessary to enable the homeless child or youth to attend school and participate fully in school activities (including summer school); and
- providing store cards/prepaid debit cards to purchase materials necessary for students to participate in school activities.

Provide a link to where the district Mitigation Plans and ARP Plans are located on DEED's website.

DEED maintains a listing of each district's Mitigation Plan and ARP plans, and they can be accessed here:

<https://publish.smartsheet.com/2df5f8edb3344b00b7256b79bc8e76d5>

Provide the link to the stakeholder engagement toolkit DEED created and provided to school districts.

The District Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit can be found here:

<https://education.alaska.gov/safeschools/infectiousdisease/Stakeholder%20Engagement%20toolkit.pdf>

Expand on how school districts are measuring learning loss.

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires an LEA to reserve not less than 20 percent of its ESSER III allocation to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions (e.g., providing intensive or high-dosage tutoring or accelerating learning), such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after-school programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that the interventions implemented respond to students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on students from low-income families, students of color, children with disabilities, English learners, migratory students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.

Within their applications for funding, school districts are required to "describe the extent of the impact of the COVID-19 on student learning and student well-being, including identifying the groups of students most impacted by the pandemic." DEED reviews the provided narrative and ensures it is adequately addressed.

How each school district measures the academic impact of lost instructional time will vary based on the data they have. Common data districts review includes, but are not limited to, local interim assessments, attendance rates, graduation rates, drop-out rates, retention rates, grades, credit accrual, parent and staff surveys, and more.

February 11, 2022, Follow-Up

Expand on what expenses would be considered "media" under the [Alaska Uniform Chart of Accounts](#) object code titled "Supplies, Materials, and Media."

Object Code 450, "Supplies, Materials, and Media", is a required code in the *Uniform Chart of Accounts and Account Code Descriptions for Public School Districts* publication. There are 15 optional codes that roll up to 450 which include the following:

| Object Code | Object Code Title |
|--------------------|---|
| 451 | Teaching Supplies |
| 452 | Maintenance and Construction Supplies and Materials |
| 453 | Janitorial Supplies |
| 454 | Office Supplies |
| 455 | School Bus Maintenance, Supplies, and Materials |
| 456 | Warehouse Inventory Adjustment |
| 457 | Small Tools and Equipment |
| 458 | Vehicle Gasoline, Diesel, and Oil |
| 459 | Food |
| 460 | Milk |
| 471 | Textbooks |
| 472 | Library Books |
| 473 | Periodicals |
| 475 | Supplies-Technology Related |
| 479 | Other Supplies, Materials, and Media |

Pages 52 and 53 of the Uniform Chart of Accounts provides a description of what types of expenditures would fall under each of these object codes. "Media" related expenditures would best fall under object code 475 which would include: "supplies that are typically used in conjunction with technology related hardware or software. Some examples are CDs, flash or jump drives, cables, monitor stands, E-readers (including tablets and mobile devices), printers, copiers, software costs, and cloud-based applications that do not meet the capitalization criteria (See Appendix A) should be reported here. Any items that meet the capitalization criteria are not included here, but in object code 512, Technology-Related Hardware or object code 513, Technology Software."