



# Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act – Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund

## Introduction

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act of 2021 was signed into law on December 27, 2020. As with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the purpose of this supplemental relief is to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. While the CRRSA Act contains a number of provisions, this guidance focuses on the Education Stabilization Fund’s (ESF II) Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund II. For guidance on the other preschool to 12th grade (PK-12) fund, please see the [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief \(ESSER\) Fund II guidance](#).

## Education Stabilization Fund II (CRRSA)

The CRRSA Act authorized \$81.88 billion in supplemental coronavirus aid under the ESF II to support the educational needs of states, school districts, and institutions of higher education (IHEs; see Table 1). As with the ESF I under the CARES Act, the ESF II includes two reservations for outlying areas and the Bureau of Indian Education and allocates emergency relief funds to the following programs:

- Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund II (5%),
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund II (67%), and
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II (28%).

Table 1. Appropriations of Emergency Relief Funds and Required Reservations of Funds Under the ESF II

Program	Appropriation
Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund II	\$4,053,060,000
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II	\$54,311,004,000
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II	\$22,697,136,000
<b>Subtotal for Emergency Relief Funds II</b>	<b>\$81,061,200,000</b>
Reservation for Outlying Areas	\$409,400,000
Reservation for Bureau of Indian Education	\$409,400,000
<b>Total Education Stabilization Fund II Appropriation</b>	<b>\$81,880,000,000</b>

Note: All dollar amounts represented herein were taken directly from the [final statute](#).

## Overview of GEER II Changes

While the content and requirements of GEER Fund II remain largely the same as those under GEER I (CARES Act), there are a few changes to note. Changes include:

- A new \$2.75 billion reservation for the Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS) grants, which allows eligible nonpublic schools to apply directly to the Department to receive services and assistance related to COVID-19 educational disruptions (see the following EANS section). *It is important to note that equitable services requirements continue to apply under the CARES Act's ESSER I and GEER I programs.*
- New language prohibiting states from using any funds to support vouchers or tax credit scholarship programs.

For additional information regarding the differences in GEER I (CARES Act) and GEER II (CRRSA), see the U.S. Department of Education's [fact sheet](#).

## Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund II

The GEER Fund II allocates supplemental emergency education relief grants to the governor of each state with an approved application. Like GEER I (CARES Act), the GEER Fund II is a broad discretionary fund to support IHEs and/or PK-12 local education agencies (LEAs) that the governor has deemed most significantly impacted by COVID-19. In addition, a governor may provide support through a subgrant or a contract to other LEAs, IHEs, and education-related entities that she deems essential for:

- Carrying out emergency educational services,
- Providing child care and early childhood education,
- Providing social and emotional support, and
- Protecting education-related jobs.

### Allocations

Iowa will receive approximately \$37.8 million from this fund, which will be provided to the state education agency (SEA) in the following manner:

- 60% awarded based on the state's relative population of individuals aged five through 24 and
- 40% awarded based on the state's relative number of children counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA; students ages 5-17 living in poverty).

Of the \$37.8 million, \$26.2 million will be reserved for the EANS program. The remaining \$11.5 million will be distributed as competitive grants awarded to LEAs and IHEs that the governor has deemed most significantly impacted by COVID-19. The competitive grants will be allocated in the following manner:

1. 75% for public PK-12 schools to provide mental health supports to students, including coordination and delivery of mental health services and wraparound support to students, youth mental health first aid training and implementation, and suicide prevention services and programming.
2. 25% for IHEs, including community colleges, for GAP tuition assistance.

*Additional details regarding application procedures will be provided in future guidance.*

Table 2. Iowa's GEER Fund II Allocation and Reservations Compared to the Total National Allocation and Reservations

State	Total Section 312 Allocation	Supplemental GEER Allocation (GEER II)	EANS Allocation	Maximum Reservation for EANS Administration
Iowa	\$37,837,626	\$11,566,281	\$26,271,345	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,053,060,000</b>	<b>\$1,303,060,000</b>	<b>\$2,750,000,000</b>	<b>\$17,037,279</b>

Source: Adapted from U.S. Department of Education's (2021) [GEER II Methodology for Calculating Allocations](#).

Table 3. GEER II Discretionary Fund Breakdown for Competitive Grants

Grant	Amount
Competitive Grants for Mental Health Supports for Public PK-12 Schools (75%)	\$8,674,711
Competitive Grants for GAP Tuition Assistance (25%)	\$2,891,570
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,566,281</b>

## Allowable Uses of Funds

The allowable uses of funds for the GEER Fund II remain the same as the uses authorized under the CARES Act. These uses include providing:

- Emergency support through grants to LEAs that the SEA deems have been most significantly impacted by the coronavirus to support the ability of such LEAs to continue to provide educational services to their students and to support the ongoing functionality of the LEA;
- Emergency support through grants to IHEs serving students within the state that the governor determines have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the ongoing functionality of the institution; and
- Support to any other IHE, LEA, or education-related entity within the state that the governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students for authorized activities described in the ESSER Fund II or the Higher Education Act; the provision of child care and early childhood education, social and emotional support; and the protection of education-related jobs (CRRSA Act § 312(c)).

## New Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools

Unlike GEER I, services and assistance to nonpublic schools are provided through the EANS program. Under this separate program, eligible nonpublic schools may apply directly to the Department to receive services or assistance. With the creation of this program, LEAs are not required to provide equitable services under GEER II. However, equitable services requirements continue to apply under the CARES Act's ESSER I and GEER I programs. Additional information on the EANS program is available in the EANS guidance, which is available in the [CRRSA Act for PK-12 Schools section](#) of the COVID-19 page.

## Questions and Additional Guidance

If you have questions, please contact [steve.crew@iowa.gov](mailto:steve.crew@iowa.gov). If he is unable to assist you, he will connect you with the appropriate person. For additional COVID-19 guidance and information, please visit the Department's [COVID-19 webpage](#).