MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance Committee

FROM: Katema Ballentine, Business Office

DATE: August 13,2020

SUBJECT: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund

**CARES Act ESSER Funding**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides funding to LEAs through Section 18003 of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, to address the impact of COVID-19 on elementary and secondary schools.

**Application for Funds**

Eligible LEAs must complete an application by July 15, 2020, in order to receive funds through the first apportionment, expected to go out starting September 2020.

**Use of Funds**

An LEA may use ESSER funds for any allowable expenditure incurred on or after March 13, 2020, the date the President declared the national emergency due to COVID-19. Federal cash management rules will apply to this funding.

In addition to these, LEAs can use funds for the following activities:

* Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of LEAs with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies
* Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools
* Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population
* Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs
* Planning for and coordinating on long-term closures (including on meeting IDEA requirements, how to provide online learning, and how to provide meals to students)
* Staff training and professional development on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious disease
* Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of LEA, including buildings operated by the LEA
* Purchasing educational technology (hardware, software, and connectivity) for students, that aids in the regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive or adaptive technology
* Mental health services and supports
* Summer learning and supplemental after-school programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care
* Discretionary funds for school principals to address the needs of their individual schools
* Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation and continuity of services in LEAs and to continuing the employment of their existing staff

The allocation that each school will receive will be determined after submission of application and determination of eligibility.