

The CARES Act – Education Stabilization Fund

A Summary of U.S. Department of Education Funding for K12 Schools

AID FOR SCHOOLS

The CARES Act provides \$30.75B to the Department of Education for the Education Stabilization Fund. Under this stabilization fund, there are two funding streams through which funding will be allocated to K12 schools through grants to the states. Those two funding streams are:

Governor’s Emergency Relief Fund (Sec. 18002) (9.8% of total fund)

- It will be important for state conferences and bishops to work with governors for access to this aid.
- With monies under the fund, the governor can provide “support to any other institution of higher education, local educational agency, or education-related entity within the State that the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students...the provision of child care and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs.”
- The allocation has two parts: 60% of the allocation is based on student population and 40% of the allocation is based on section 1124(c) of ESEA.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (Sec. 18003) (43.9% of total fund)

- \$13.5 billion in formula funding directly to states, to help schools respond to coronavirus and related school closures, meet the immediate needs of students and teachers, improve the use of education technology, support distance education, and make up for lost learning time.
- There are twelve uses for money provided under the fund, which include any activity under ESEA and IDEA, supplies to sanitize and clean facilities, planning for closures, purchasing educational technology, mental health support, etc.
- The allocation to of this fund to the states is based the same proportion each state received under Title IA in the most recent fiscal year.

For all funding distributed through these two funding streams, the local educational agency (LEA/school district) must make equitable services available to non-public schools in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The LEA/school district is required to consult non-public schools and the “control of funds” is maintained by the local educational agency (LEA). These funds are available through September 30, 2021.