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April 30, 2020

To: BOCES District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
School District Business Officers
Charter School Leaders

From: Phyllis D. Morris, Chief Financial Officer

RE: Federal CARES Act Funding

Background

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provides \$30.75 billion nationwide in an Education Stabilization Fund to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus, of which:

- \$13.2 billion is for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) to support the ability of local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation; and
- \$2.95 billion is for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) which provides grants to Governors for the purpose of providing educational agencies with emergency assistance to address the impact of COVID-19.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF)

New York State has been allocated \$1.037 billion under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF). The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for these funds.

Local Educational Agency (LEA) allocations will be calculated using the relative shares of grants awarded under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the most recent fiscal year.

ESSERF funds to school districts were programmed by the Division of the Budget and the Legislature in the 2020-21 enacted New York State budget through the application of a "pandemic adjustment" to partially offset the state share of state aid to school districts.

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)

New York State has been allocated \$164.2 million under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER). The New York State Division of the Budget (DOB) is submitting the application to USDE for these funds.

The entirety of New York State's GEER funds were programmed by the Division of the Budget and the Legislature in the 2020-21 enacted New York State budget through the application of a "pandemic adjustment" to partially offset the state share of state aid to school districts. These funds will be allocated to school districts using the relative shares of grants awarded under Title I, Part A of the ESEA for the most recent fiscal year.

Application Process

NYSED is waiting for USDE to provide additional guidance on the use of the ESSERF and the GEER funds and we will finalize the application forms and the LEA specific allocations after such guidance is received.

When the application and LEA allocation amounts are final, NYSED will ask LEAs to submit an application for the ESSERF funds using our online Application Business Portal. School districts will be asked to submit a single application for both the ESSERF and the GEER funding using our online portal.

Thank you for everything you are doing for your students during this unprecedented time.

cc: Shannon Tahoe
John D'Agati
Kim Wilkins
Brian Cechnicki
Jason Harmon
Andrew Klippel