



Federal CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund for School Districts

Overview of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) for School Districts

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) conducted two surveys (one due July 17 and one due Aug 5) asking districts what model they planned to reopen under and what were the costs they anticipated incurring above their appropriated budget for the 2020-21 school year. The estimated expenditure categories were as follows:

- Personnel Costs Related to:
 - Academics
 - Student Supports
 - Building Cleaning & Safety
 - Technology
 - Transportation
- Non-personnel Costs Related to:
 - Academics
 - Student Supports
 - Building Cleaning/PPE/Safety
 - Technology
 - Transportation

Districts were notified that their responses would be used to inform the Governor and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in their decision making about a commitment of funds to support schools reopening. This information led to the **dedication of \$159.3 million in CRF** funding for school districts by the Governor. The \$159.3 million was allocated as follows:

- \$130.8 million to reimburse districts for increased costs due to Coronavirus for four categories of spending: (1) Building Cleaning, Health, and PPE; (2) Transportation; (3) Academic; and (4) Student Support.
- \$22 million for devices and connectivity. These funds were matched with \$15 million in GEER funding bringing the total commitment to \$37 million.
- \$2 million for programming that supports students social and emotional health;
- \$4.5 million for purchase of public WiFi Hot Spots (administered by the CT Commission for Educational Technology)

Allocation Methodology for the \$130.8 million:

The allocation methodology for funding in each category is detailed below. ***The distribution took into account the estimated additional costs the district reported via the survey in each category. If a district estimated no funding in that category then they did not receive an allocation.*** To access the funds districts will receive an application along with specific guidance regarding items eligible for reimbursement under each category. In October the department will conduct a review of spending to date and consider reallocation of funding that will not be spent prior to December 31, 2020.

- (1) Building Cleaning, Health, and PPE – Total Funding Available is \$60.2 million

Non-personnel related costs are reimbursed ***at the full request***, which total \$59,005,633

Personnel related costs are reimbursed on a prorated share of the remaining funding available (\$1.2 million) based on a district's enrollment divided by the total enrollment for those districts that requested personnel related cleaning and PPE funding.

- (2) Transportation – Total Funding Available is \$20.6 million

Non-personnel related costs are reimbursed on a prorated share of the funding available (\$15 million) based on a district's enrollment divided by the total enrollment for those districts that requested non-personnel related transportation funding. Funding was capped at the estimated level provided by the district.

Personnel related costs are reimbursed on a prorated share of the funding available (\$5.6 million) based on a district's enrollment divided by the total enrollment for those districts that requested personnel related transportation funding. Funding was capped at the estimated level provided by the district.

- (3) Academic – Total Funding Available is \$41 million for personnel-related costs

Non-personnel related costs are not reimbursed.

Personnel related costs are reimbursed for only those districts in which the percentage of students who receive Free and Reduced Price Lunch is greater than or equal to 40%. Reimbursement for Opportunity Districts is 100% of their request and for the remaining eligible districts is based on a prorated share of the balance of funding available based on a district's estimated expenditures.

- (4) Student Support – Total Grant Available is \$9 million for personnel-related costs

Non-personnel related costs are not reimbursed.

Personnel related costs are reimbursed for only those districts in which the percentage of students who receive Free and Reduced Price Lunch is greater than or equal to 40%. Reimbursement for eligible districts is based on a prorated share of the funding available (\$9 million) based on a district's reimbursement request.