



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# District Financial Considerations

4/7/2020

**Kathy Demsey, CFO**

# Attendee Reminders

- Thank you for attending!
- All attendees will be placed on mute for the duration of the webinar.
- To ask questions, please use the Q and A or chat feature
- Questions will be addressed by the presenters at the conclusion of the session
- This session is being recorded and will be posted to the CSDE web site.



# State Grant Funds

- **The balance of state grant funds will continue to be paid through the close of the fiscal year.**
- **Entitlement and calculated grants with will not be prorated to reflect the shortened school year. (Please note: In the case of the Excess Cost – Student Based special education grant depending on your actual expenditures filing at the end of the current fiscal year, you may see an adjustment to your grant amount which will be reconciled in your April 2021 ECS payment.)**
- **We are working with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) on the potential to extend the timeline for expenditure of certain state grants beyond the close of the fiscal year. Examples of programs where we are seeking this flexibility are: Alliance District grants, Priority School District grants, and Commissioner’s Network grants.**
- **Guidance will be coming from my office on your statutorily required end of the school year expenditure filings.**



# Federal CARES Act

- The department has created a team of federal program grant managers led by my office to provide guidance, distribute, and report on funds provided to the state through the two main K-12 funding sources:
- **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund:**
  - Over \$13.2 billion. SEA-administered. Funds flow from ED to SEAs, which then must allocate not less than 90 percent of the funding to LEAs.
  - LEAs may use funds for:
    - Any activity authorized under ESEA, IDEA, Perkins, or McKinney-Vento, and
    - Many other activities to help with the response to COVID-19 (including preparedness and response efforts, sanitation, professional development, distance learning, and others).
  - SEAs may use some funds for administration (0.5%) and the rest for emergency needs to respond to the coronavirus as determined by the SEA.



# Federal CARES Act (Cont.)

- **Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund:**
  - Approximately \$2.9 billion. Administered by the Governor. Funds can be used for:
    - Emergency support to LEAs the SEA deems most significantly impacted by coronavirus,
    - Emergency support to IHEs the Governor determines are most significantly impacted by coronavirus, and
    - Support to any other IHE, LEA, or education related entity within the State that the Governor deems essential for carrying out educational services.



# Federal CARES Act – Waivers

- The bill grants the Secretary new authority to waive statutory or regulatory requirements, at the request of an SEA or LEA, if the Secretary determines those waivers necessary because of the national emergency.
- The department received waiver guidance along with a template over the weekend. Pursuant to the authority under the CARES Act, state are invited to request waivers of the following provisions:
  - Section 1127(b) of Title I, Part A of the ESEA so that your State educational agency (SEA) may waive, more than once every three years, if necessary, the 15 percent carryover limitation in ESEA section 1127(a) for fiscal year (FY) 2019 Title I, Part A funds. • Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) to extend the period of availability of FY 2018 funds for programs in which your SEA participates under its approved consolidated State plan until September 30, 2021.
  - Section 4106(d) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA related to local educational agency (LEA) needs assessments for the 2019-2020 school year.



# Federal CARES Act – Waivers (Cont’d.)

- Section 4106(e)(2)(C), (D), and (E) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA with respect to content-area spending requirements for FYs 2018 and 2019 Title IV, Part A funds.
- Section 4109(b) of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA with respect to the spending limitation for technology infrastructure for FYs 2018 and 2019 Title IV, Part A funds.
- Section 8101(42) of the ESEA, which defines “professional development,” for activities funded for the 2019-2020 school year.



## **Executive Orders 7C & 7I**

### **Budget Impact for Boards of Education**

Executive Orders 7C and 7I do not alter or modify the control of line-items that fall squarely within the authority of Boards of Education within a single municipality. Boards of Education should also still comply with all requirements pertaining to budget deadlines adopted by the municipality in compliance with the open meeting provisions in Section 1 of Executive Order 7B.



# Questions?

