



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



May 13, 2020

Dear Superintendents,

I am happy to announce that the United States Department of Education has approved the Department's application for funding under the federal CARES Act, Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER). The Department was awarded \$111 million in funding, of which \$11.1 million will be reserved for state-level activities, and the balance of \$99.9 million will be distributed to local education agencies (LEAs) based on the proportion of Title I funding they received for fiscal year 2020.

These funds will be an important support for districts as you consider next steps in continuing to provide education in a way that is accessible, equitable and meaningful for the children you serve. The road to recovery for school districts will, in many ways, be unique to the district and most likely include delivering education with a mix of traditional classroom settings along with continuing online, distance learning. We acknowledge that considerable resources will be required for this recovery at the same time as communities and the State are facing significant declines in revenue. We urge you to keep the following priorities in mind as you develop your recovery plans.

1. Ensuring that all students have access to appropriate technology and connectivity;
2. Accessibility to high-quality curriculum that addresses the needs of all learners including students with disabilities;
3. Addressing student learning gaps and safely reopening schools; and
4. Providing social and emotional supports for educators and students as they transition back to school.

Attached you will find a listing of entitlement amounts. A streamlined application will be provided to LEAs shortly, and we encourage you to begin your planning now. The Department is committed to an expedited approval process upon receipt of your application.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our Chief Financial Officer, Kathy Demsey, at kathy.demsey@ct.gov or at (203) 206-4885.

Sincerely,

Dr. Miguel A. Cardona
Commissioner of Education