

CARES Act

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund

Guidance for

Acceleration Academies



Kathy Hoffman

Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction

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For questions on the **FY21 Acceleration Academies Grant**, please reach out to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) by emailing:
melissa.castillo@azed.gov
sean.ross@azed.gov

For **general questions** on the CARES Act, please reach out by emailing:
Questions@azed.gov



Arizona Department of Education
Office of the State Superintendent

Dear School Leaders,

The 2019-2020 school year presented our education community with unprecedented challenges. Yet, despite these challenges, our schools and educators did an amazing job finding creative ways to support students and families. While there are still many unknowns about the future of this virus and its impact on our state, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) remains committed to providing the field with as much guidance, support, and clarity as possible.

To continue to support schools, ADE's framework for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund provides a comprehensive and equitable approach to support Arizona's students, families, teachers and schools that have been impacted by COVID-19.

We will continue to collaborate closely with the Governor's Office, state, regional and local partners, and initiatives to further support statewide relief and recovery efforts. Our primary areas of focus include support for re-opening schools, online and remote learning opportunities and infrastructure, mental health and social wellness supports and resources for addressing student learning gaps.

These focus areas will be addressed through three distinct phases of time (**Relief, Preparation and Prevention** and **Recovery**) needed for overall recovery and stabilization, and these areas of focus and phases align with guidance to LEAs on frameworks and activities for their consideration in how they can leverage these federal recovery funds to address the unique needs of their school communities.

Thank you again for all you are doing to support your students, staff and community through this challenging time! The Arizona Department of Education is grateful for your continued leadership and care for our communities. We look forward to continuing to support you all through this recovery process.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Hoffman".

Kathy Hoffman, MS, CCC-SLP
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Arizona Department of Education



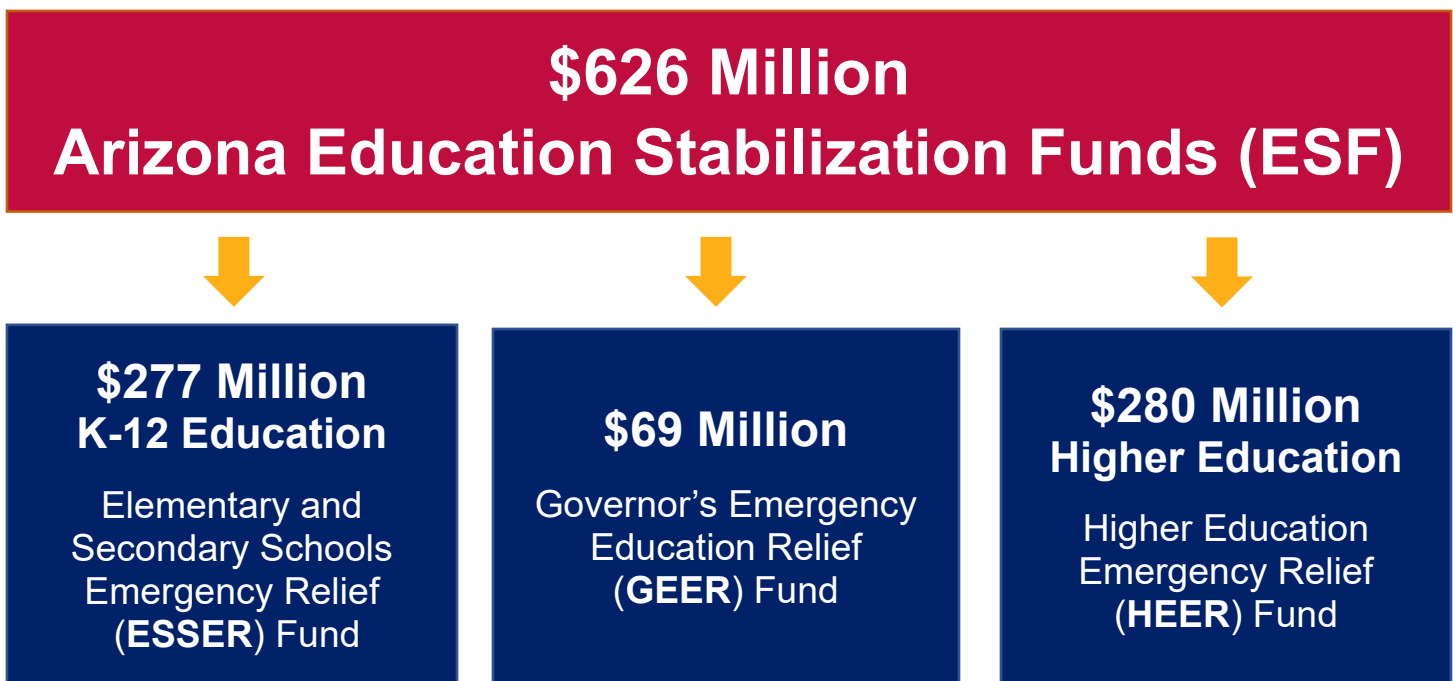
What is the CARES Act?

The **Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act** is a \$2 trillion relief package that included \$180 billion to be distributed among two funds dedicated to State, Local, and Tribal governments

The **Education Stabilization Fund (ESF)** provides \$30.74 billion in dedicated funds to support education relief and recovery efforts, with:

- \$13.5 billion for K-12;
- \$14.2 billion for Higher Education; and,
- \$3 billion for Governors to further support a state’s most significantly impacted K-12 and Higher Education institutions.




Arizona is projected to receive **\$626 million** in **Education Stabilization Funds**:



The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) administers the ESSER Fund, and advises the Governor regarding the distribution of a portion of GEER Funds for the Acceleration Academies grant.

Phases to Recovery

ADE encourages a **three-phase approach** to plan to leverage CARES Act Funds to respond to state and local needs in relation to COVID-19:

 <p>Relief</p>	 <p>Preparation & Prevention</p>	 <p>Recovery</p>
<p>March 13 – May 30, 2020</p> <p>Meeting immediate needs and managing school closures and planning for summer school</p>	<p>June 1 – August 30, 2020</p> <p>Addressing and stabilizing disruption and preparing for safe school openings, as well as a future health disruptions</p>	<p>September 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021</p> <p>Managing on-going recovery needs of students and schools, and reimagining safe learning environments</p>

A ***Roadmap for Reopening Schools***, developed through the efforts of a statewide stakeholders advisory group, was released **May 2020** with strategies and considerations to, in part, help inform LEA planning for the use of CARES funds across these phases



GEER LEA Assistance Funds for FY21 Acceleration Academies

What is the Acceleration Academies grant?

The FY21 Acceleration Academies grant was established by the Governor’s Office to help Arizona students most impacted by the COVID pandemic. The funding supports evidence-based Reading and Math interventions.

Who is eligible to apply?

LEAs with one or more of the 183 schools found eligible based on a formula to determine “most impacted” are invited to apply for these funds.

How are allocations determined?

Allocations were determined based on a formula to determine “most impacted” by COVID, including:

- Free and Reduced Lunch applications
- Not Proficient AzMERIT ELA and Math scores
- Unemployment claims in corresponding zip codes
- COVID cases in corresponding zip codes
- No access to computer in corresponding zip codes
- No access to internet in corresponding zip codes

How will eligible LEAs apply for grant funds?

Eligible LEAs will apply for GEER FY21 Acceleration Academies grant funds through completing an online application in the ADE Grants Management system at gme.azed.gov.

What Assurances will apply to LEAs that choose to apply?

LEAs must make the following assurances in order to receive GEER funds:

Assistance to Non-Public Schools

LEAs must provide equitable services in the same manner as required under Title I-A (ESEA Sec.1117). A **proportionate share** of funds to support equitable services must be calculated, and **timely and meaningful consultation** with non-public schools must be completed

Public Control of Funds

Just as required under Title I-A, LEAs must maintain control of all GEER Funds for services and assistance provided to non-public schools associated with the provision of equitable services

Continued Payment to Employees

LEAs shall, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.

Are private schools eligible to apply for a grant?

No. Non-profit private schools are, however, eligible to receive equitable services through the Acceleration Academies grant from school district awardees, in the same manner as under Title I-A, as determined by timely and meaningful consultation. All students and teachers in private schools can



benefit from equitable services, and the potential scope of services would be limited to the scope of services allowable under the Acceleration Academies grant. For-profit private schools are not eligible to participate in equitable services.

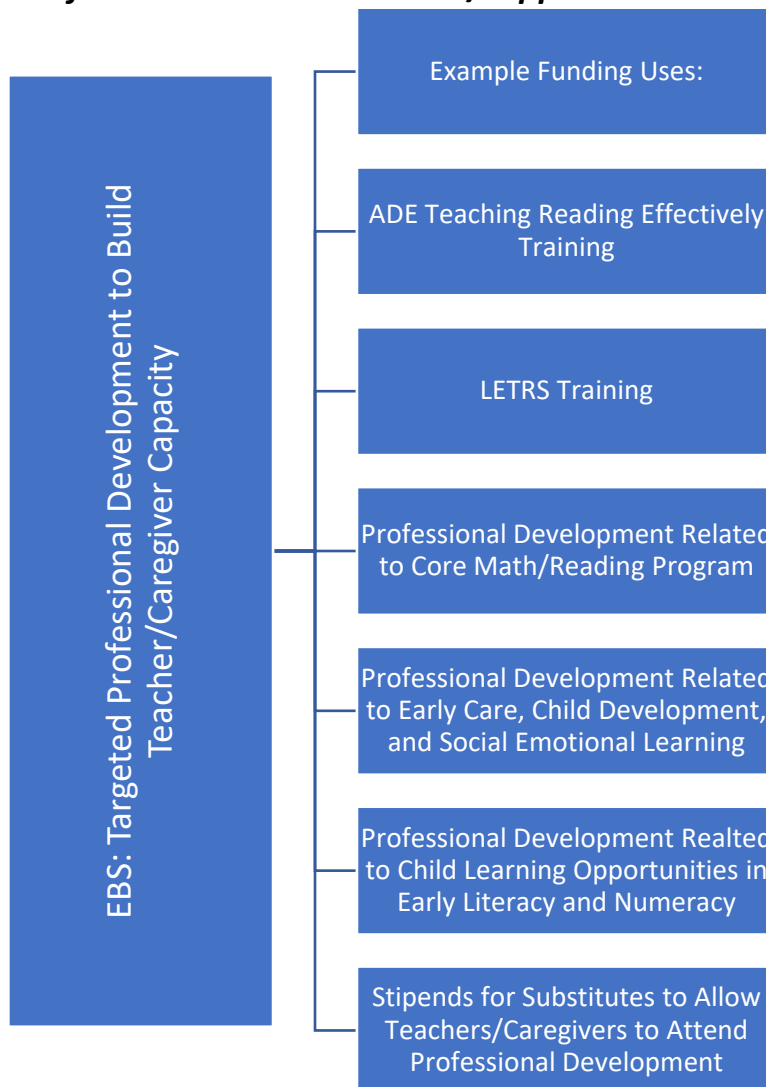
How long will LEAs have to use these funds?

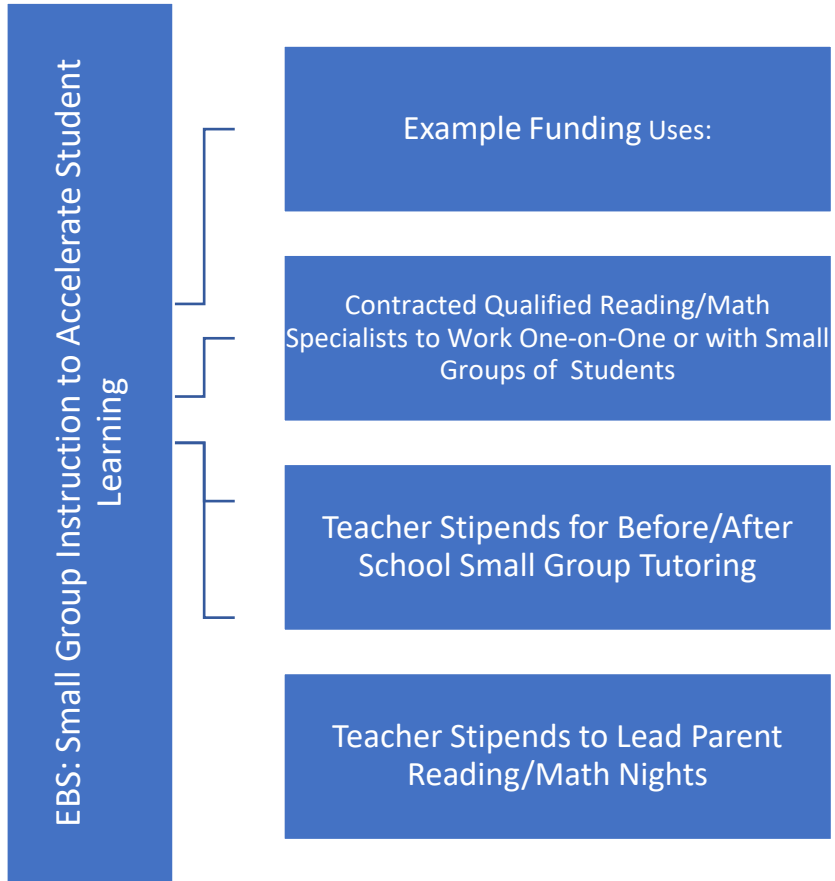
LEAs will complete an application in the Grants Management system with an initial project/budget term of **January 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021**. However, funds obligated by LEAs will remain available for continued obligation through carryover through **September 30, 2022**.

What can GEER Acceleration Academies grant funds be used for?

GEER Acceleration Academies grant funds can be used to fund evidence-based interventions for Reading and Math.

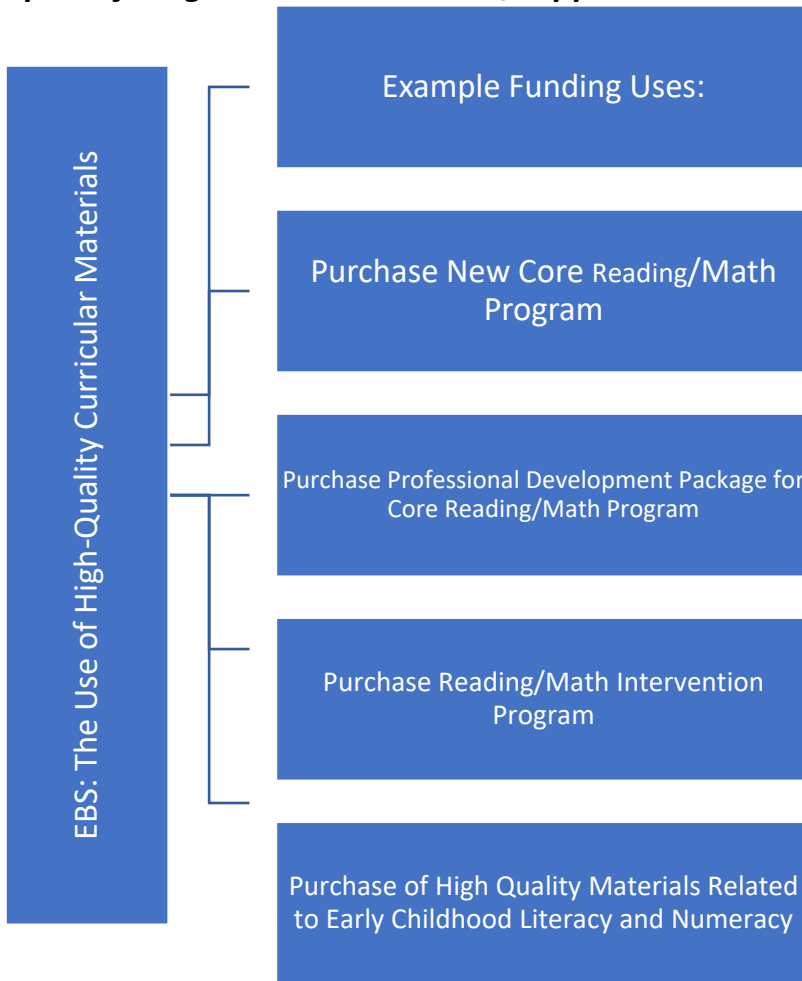
Examples of short-term interventions/supports include:

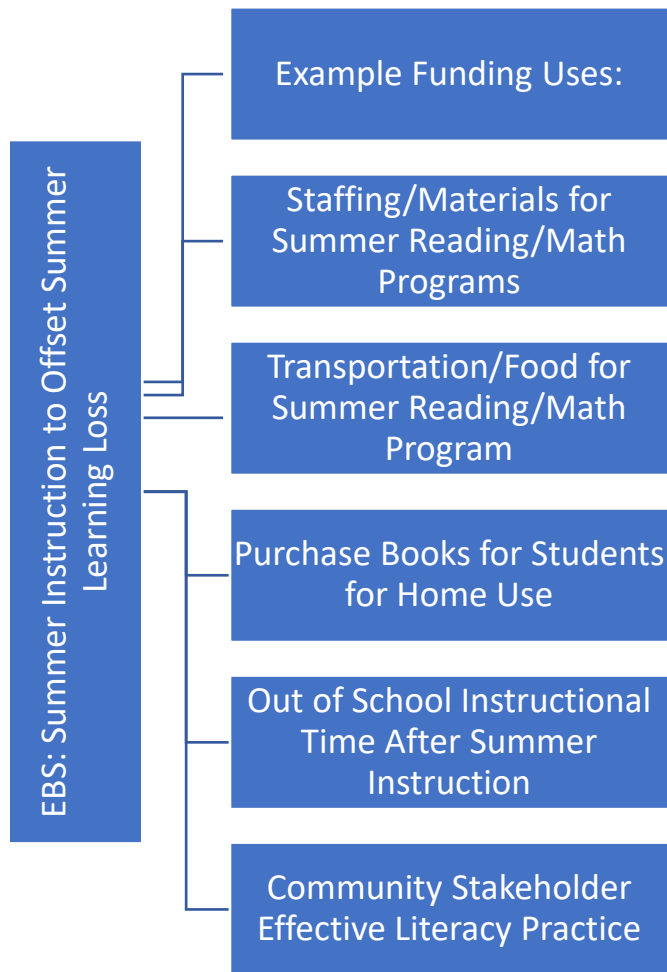






Examples of long-term interventions/support include:





What can GEER grant funds not be used for?

The following are *unallowable* uses of GEER Funds:

- CARES Act funds generally cannot be used for bonuses, merit pay, or similar expenditures, unless related to disruptions or closures resulting from COVID-19
- Subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not employees of the SEA or LEAs
- Expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations
- Capital expenditures



Equitable Services

The CARES Act requires school districts (**these requirements do not apply to charter LEAs**) receiving GEER Funds to provide equitable services to non-profit private schools **in the same manner as provided under ESEA Section 1117 (Title I-A)**:

ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SEC. 18005.

- (a) **IN GENERAL.** A local educational agency receiving funds under sections 18002 or 18003 of this title shall provide equitable services in the same manner as provided under section 1117 of the ESEA of 1965 to students and teachers in non-public schools, as determined in consultation with representatives of non-public schools.
- (b) **PUBLIC CONTROL OF FUNDS.** The control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a nonpublic school under subsection (a), and title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with such funds, shall be in a public agency, and a public agency shall administer such funds, materials, equipment, and property and shall provide such services (or may contract for the provision of such services with a public or private entity).

Who is required to provide equitable services?

School districts receiving GEER Fund LEA assistance grants are required to provide equitable services to non-profit private schools in the same manner as provided under ESEA Section 1117 (Title I-A). Just as under ESSA programs, Charter LEAs, and other non-traditional district LEAs, are not required to provide equitable services.

How do you determine if a private school is eligible for equitable services?

A private school is eligible to choose to participate in GEER Fund equitable services if they are currently eligible to participate in Title I-A equitable services from a school district.

Note, private schools that may have declined to participate in equitable services under Title I-A (and ESSER) may choose to now participate under the GEER Fund. Districts cannot only choose to reach out to private schools that have already chosen to participate in equitable services for other FY20 or FY21 ESSA programs, such as Title I or Title II. There may be private schools that will only choose to participate in GEER Fund equitable services.

The *FY21 Affirmation of Timely/Meaningful Ongoing Consultation and Equitable Services* for the GEER Fund is included in the Appendix. This form must be completed for all eligible private schools for a district, just as required under Title I-A, and must be uploaded to the Grants Management system as a required document as part of the LEA grant application process. Affirmation of Consultations for private school equitable services must be completed and submitted for LEA GEER Fund grant applications to be approved.

Districts must make a minimum of three documented good-faith efforts to determine the participation status of a private school. If a private school has not responded after three documented good-faith efforts, then they may be reported by the district as a non-participating private school.



Do private schools need to have participated in FY20 Title I equitable services to be considered eligible for GEER Fund equitable services?

No. All private schools eligible to participate in Title I equitable services in FY21 may choose to participate in GEER Fund equitable services.

Who is eligible to receive equitable services?

All students and teachers in a participating non-profit private school are eligible to receive equitable services under the GEER Fund.

What types of services are private schools eligible to receive?

Participating eligible private schools may participate in any services aligned with any GEER Acceleration Academies grant allowable activity, as determined through **timely and meaningful consultation**. Please see: *What can GEER Acceleration Academies grant funds be used for?*

How is the scope of equitable services that a private school can receive determined? Is consultation required?

School districts receiving ESSER and/or GEER Funds are required to engage in **timely and meaningful consultation** non-profit private schools, just as required under Title I-A. The expected outcome of this consultation is the determination of the scope and delivery of equitable services to be provided by the district.

The ADE **Ombudsman** for equitable services (PrivateSchoolsOmbud@azed.gov) is available as a resource, as needed, throughout the process of determining and delivering equitable services under the ESSER Fund, in the same manner as provided under Title I-A. Additional resources and support materials may be found on the ADE website for [Private School Equitable Services](#).

What are the requirements for equitable services?

LEAs must make the following assurances in order to receive GEER Fund grants:

Assistance to Non-Public Schools

LEAs must provide equitable services in the same manner as required under Title I-A (ESEA Sec.1117). A **proportionate share** of funds to support equitable services must be calculated, and **timely and meaningful consultation** with non-public schools must be completed

Public Control of Funds

Just as required under Title I-A, LEAs must maintain control of all GEER Funds for services and assistance provided to non-public schools associated with the provision of equitable services LEAs providing equitable services to non-public schools must:

- Maintain control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school under the GEER Fund
- Maintain title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with GEER funds
- Ensure that services to a non-public school with GEER funds will be provided by a public agency directly, or through contract with, another public or private entity

How is proportionate share determined?

A district determines the proportional share of GEER Funds available for equitable services as follows:

- Determine the LEA and Private Schools' proportionate share from the LEA's **FY20 Title I Proportionate Share Determination**. This excel file may be found in the FY20 ESEA Consolidation Application as a Title I Related Document
- Apply these proportions to the LEA's total GEER Fund grant program award to determine the amount of funds available for equitable services
- Reserve from this amount funds that are reasonable and necessary for the district to administer equitable services

How are Acceleration Academies participating private school budgets for equitable services determined?

A district determines the budget available for equitable services at each participating private school as follows:

- Determine the final cohort of **Acceleration Academies** participating private schools for GEER Fund equitable services
- Determine the total number of eligible Private School children from **low- income families residing in the LEA's Title I Attendance Zones** attending GEER Fund Participating Private Schools. These data will be available to FY21 Title I-A LEAs, as they were gathered as part of the annual Title I-A consultation process
- Determine final PPA for **Acceleration Academies** participating private schools:
Total Amount Available for Equitable Services – Amount Reserved for Administration /
Total Eligible Private School Students from Participating Private Schools
- Apply the final PPA to the total eligible private school student count for each participating private school to determine final budgets for equitable services for each participating private school



Example of Determining the Proportionate Share of GEER Fund Equitable Services

In this example, a district has received **\$1,000,000** in a GEER Fund grant award

The district has referred to their **FY20 ESEA Consolidated Application** under **Title I Related Documents** to review the district’s **FY20 Title I Proportionate Share Determination** (Excel file) to determine the proportions to use to determine the proportionate share of funds to reserve for GEER Fund equitable services.

Please note that these data may also be found in the LEA’s FY20 ESSER Fund application:

Step 1
EXAMPLE OF DETERMINING THE PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF GEER FUNDS FOR EQUITABLE SERVICES

**Data from FY20 ESEA Consolidated Application Related Document (Excel file):
 FY20 Title I Proportionate Share Determination*

	LEA Proportionate Share*	Private Schools’ Proportionate Share*	Total
Proportion	90%	10%	100%
Proportional Share GEER Fund	\$900,000	\$100,000	\$1,000,000

Step 2
EXAMPLE OF DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS RESERVED FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OF EQUITABLE SERVICES

Total determined proportionate share for GEER Fund equitable services	\$100,000
After consultation, the amount reserved that is reasonable and necessary for the district to administer GEER Fund equitable services	\$10,000
Final amount available for GEER Fund equitable services	\$90,000 (\$100,000 - \$10,000)

CARES Act – Education Stabilization Funds



The district has determined their final participating private school cohort of 3 schools after completing timely and meaningful consultation with all eligible private schools. These schools have a total of 150 eligible Private School children from low- income families residing in the LEA's Title I Attendance Zones.

The district has determined the final per-pupil amount (PPA) of \$600 by dividing the total final amount available for GEER Fund equitable services (\$90,000) by the final total eligible student count (150).

The district has applied their final PPA to the total eligible student count of each participating private school to determine the amount available to provide equitable services in each participating private school:

Step 3			
EXAMPLE OF DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR GEER FUND EQUITABLE SERVICES IN SPECIFIC PARTICIPATING PRIVATE SCHOOLS			
Private School	Total number of eligible Private School children from low- income families residing in the LEA's Title I Attendance Zones	Per-pupil amount (PPA) generated by each eligible private school student (\$90,000 / 150)	Amount available for GEER Fund equitable services in each private school (number of students x PPA)
A	75	\$600	\$45,000
B	50	\$600	\$30,000
C	25	\$600	\$15,000
TOTAL	150	\$600	\$90,000

Please contact ESSER@azed.gov for additional questions regarding GEER equitable services requirements



Appendices

- **FY21 Affirmation of Timely/Meaningful Ongoing Consultation and Equitable Services**
- **CARES ACT: *GOVERNOR’S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF FUND***