

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
September 23, 2021

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND READING

- F. Approval to revise methodology to award grants to school districts for costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic impact on Pre-K classrooms

Background and Purpose: In accordance with Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund). Under the ESSER Fund, established as part of the Education Stabilization Fund as authorized under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act, 2021 (CRRSA Act) and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, state educational agencies (SEAs) will award subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs) to address the impact that the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the Nation. MDE was able to retain 9.5% of its ESSER Fund grant (the “SEA Reserve”), to address emergency needs from COVID-19, which may be addressed through the use of subgrants or contracts.

MDE has designated ESSER funds to provide for integration of technology and technology supports, building sanitization, personal protective equipment, activities supporting special populations, mental health services and supports, and summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, and other uses of funds in support of Pre-K classrooms.

Eligibility: Local educational agencies that operate Pre-K classrooms that serve three- and four-year-old children (regular education, inclusive, or self-contained) are eligible for these funds.

Funding Source: Federal

Basis for Awarding the Grants: Formula

Funds will be awarded based on the following methodology:

$$\frac{\text{Available funds}}{\text{\# of eligible Pre-K classrooms in state}} = \text{Pre-K classroom allocation}$$

Allocation:

Each LEA will receive an allocation based upon the number of grants that will be awarded. One hundred percent (100%) of the amount to be awarded to LEAs will be evenly distributed between classrooms of all grant recipients. The amount will be calculated as follows:

Pre-K classroom allocation x # of eligible Pre-K classrooms = LEA allocation

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material: None