



**State of Alabama**  
**Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**  
**Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund**  
**Local Educational Agency (LEA) Application**

In order to receive a CARES Act GEER Fund allocation, an LEA must submit this application to the SEA.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**1. LEA Information**

LEA Name	Clarke County School System
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 936
Physical Address	155 West Cobb Street
City/Town and Zip Code	Grove Hill, AL 36451
Superintendent's Name	Larry Bagley
Contact Person	Carmen Rotch
Contact Person Position	Chief School Financial Officer
Contact Telephone Number	(251) 250-2155
Contact Email	carmen_rotch@hotmail.com

**PROGRAMMATIC, FISCAL, AND REPORTING ASSURANCES**

The United States Department of Education (USED) has approved the application from the State of Alabama for GEER funds under the CARES Act. The Governor of Alabama allocated \$48,851,495 to the Alabama State Department of Education. GEER funds can be obligated through 9/30/2022. Pre-award costs to the GEER fund will be allowed for allowable cost incurred on or after March 13, 2020.

**2. Allowable Service(s) Section**

*The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies that they will use the awarded GEER funds in the following ways (select one option per letter):*

**A. Private School Equitable Services Allocation**

**NOTE: Use the Private School Equitable Services Implementation Form for this section.**

- ☐ The LEA has no private schools in their attendance area
- ☒ The LEA has private schools but ALL declined to participate in CARES Act GEER funding
- ☐ The LEA has private schools that will participate in CARES Act GEER funding

**Complete the section below only if you have private schools that will be participating in GEER funds:**

Total LEA GEER Allocation	\$166,392.00
Total LEA Private School Allocation	\$0.00
Total LEA Private School Administrative Costs Set-Aside	\$0.00
Total # of Private Schools Participating	0.00
Total Student Enrollment at the LEA	2,269.00
Total Student Enrollment at ALL Participating Private Schools	0.00

B. Equip school buses with Wi-Fi capabilities to increase internet connectivity and help bridge the digital divide within the LEA.

LEA Allocation for Section B: \$36,606.00

- ☒ The LEA will use the allocation above for equipping school buses with Wi-Fi capabilities.  
☐ The LEA will **not** use this allocation for equipping school buses with Wi-Fi capabilities.

**Complete the section below only if your LEA chooses not to use this allocation:**

Reason/Rationale: \_\_\_\_\_

We will transfer this allocation to:

- ☐ Academic Support to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps of Students (C)

Amount to be transferred: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Before and After School Tutoring for Learning and Remediation in Schools (D)

Amount to be transferred: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Provide additional academic support to bridge learning and achievement gaps of students within the LEA.

LEA Allocation for Section C: \$96,507.00

- ☒ The LEA will use the allocation above for providing additional academic support to students.  
☐ The LEA will **not** use this allocation for providing additional academic support to students.

**Complete the section below only if your LEA chooses not to use this allocation:**

Reason/Rationale: \_\_\_\_\_

We will transfer this allocation to:

- ☐ Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities (B)

Amount to be transferred: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Before and After School Tutoring for Learning and Remediation in Schools (D)

Amount to be transferred: \_\_\_\_\_

D. Provide before and after school tutoring as defined in the Alabama Literacy Act for learning and remediation in schools within the LEA.

LEA Allocation for Section D: \$33,279.00

- ☐ The LEA will use the allocation above for providing tutoring to students.  
☒ The LEA will **not** use this allocation for providing tutoring to students.

**Complete the section below only if your LEA chooses not to use this allocation:**

Reason/Rationale: \_\_\_\_\_

We will transfer this allocation to:

- ☐ Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities (B)

Amount to be transferred: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ Academic Support to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps of Students (C)

Amount to be transferred: \$33,279.00

**NOTE: Only answer the questions below that apply to how the LEA will use GEER funds.**

## 2A. Equitable Services Assurances

*The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:*

- The LEA receiving GEER funds will provide equitable services to students and teachers in non-public schools located within the LEA in the same manner as provided under Section 1117 of the ESEA as determined through timely and meaningful consultation with representatives of non-public schools.
- The LEA will ensure that a public agency will maintain control of funds for the services and assistance provided to a non-public school under the GEER fund.
- The LEA will ensure that a public agency will have title to materials, equipment, and property purchased with GEER funds.
- The LEA will 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.

**Provide a brief explanation answering the following questions:**

- 1) Were services from private schools accepted or refused in your LEA?
- 2) If services were accepted by private schools, who accepted and what allocation did they receive?
- 3) When did private schools in your LEA receive timely and meaningful consultation?
- 4) What services will each private school receive and when will the services be implemented?
- 5) How will GEER funds be used to improve remote learning services and support technical capacity and access at private schools within your LEA?
- 6) If a private school administrative set-aside is being taken by the LEA, what is the allocation and how will it be used?

We have two private schools in our district, Jackson Academy and Clarke Preparatory School. Both of them refused services. The private schools did receive timely and meaningful consultation, but both refused services.

## 2B. Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities

Provide details as to how the LEA will use GEER funds to connect Wi-Fi to district buses.

The district will use the GEER funds to connect Wi-Fi to our buses by leasing equipment that comes with customized, mapped deployment plans to maximize Distance Learning impact. It includes industrial ruggedized cellular routers for each bus/location, hard installation kits with antennas for each bus/location. It has up to 800 feet of range. Each bus will start out with 8GB of data per bus and will throttle down as the data is used until the end of the month for that bus. There will be up to 128 concurrent connections and will pool and share data across all devices.

It also includes a Tracking Deployment Layer which allows school administrators to see where their buses are deployed and the coverage area for the surrounding areas in conjunction with their schools.

## 2C. Additional Academic Supports to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps

Applicable Grade-Level(s) (Check all that apply):

Pre-K ☒ K ☒ 1st ☒ 2nd ☒ 3rd ☒ 4th ☐ 5th ☐

Applicable Support(s) (Check all that apply):

☐ Reading/ELA Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources

☐ Math Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources

☐ Dyscalculia-Specific Screener

☐ Dyslexia-Specific Screener

☒ Vulnerable Populations Resources or Supports

ES

☒

MS

☒

HS

☒

NOTE: Only answer the questions below that apply to supports selected above by the LEA.

Reading and Math Family Engagement/At-Home Learning Resources

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Aligns to Alabama ELA and/or math course of study standards;
- Provides opportunities to extend learning and build connections at home;
- Reinforces key grade level concepts;
- Includes grade-level appropriate manipulatives for math and literature for reading;
- Provides individual student opportunities for both intervention and enrichment activities; and
- Includes easy-to-follow planning calendars or activity suggestions for families.

N/A

### Dyscalculia Screener

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Identifies dyscalculic tendencies in students and is not time intensive to administer;
- Recommends intervention strategies;
- Presents easy to interpret reports and information on a student's strengths and weaknesses;
- Provides diagnostic reports for teachers;
- Provides parent reports and guidance; and
- Provide additional opportunities to screen students beyond grade 3.

N/A

### Dyslexia-Specific Screener

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Aligns to evidence-based science of reading criteria;
- Provides ability and options to universally screen, identify risks, progress monitor, and/or report results in a seamless system;
- Provides recommendations for intervention strategies and/or individualized learning paths to help close achievement gaps; and
- Provides additional opportunities to screen students beyond grade 3 (if applicable).

N/A

## Vulnerable Populations Supports

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Provides streamlined approach to gather, use, and monitor identified vulnerable population data;
- Includes tools or resources to assist with development and/or implementation of individualized plans for specific needs of students;
- Includes communication tools to ensure meaningful communication in a language understood by the parents/guardians;
- Provides evidence-based learning activities that align to students' plans; and
- Provides other related or applicable services specific to vulnerable populations.

Clarke County will hold a Summer School for Grades K-3 as required in ALA for students with Reading Disabilities for four weeks during the summer. The students were identified using mid year data from the Amplified Dibels Assessment. The targeted students were the ones who tested in the "Red" zone. These students will be taught by LETRS trained, certified teachers who meet the ALA requirements. They will be taught in individual and small group instruction following ARI guidelines using evidence based reading programs which are approved by ALSDE.

Clarke County will purchase an online software program which will help teachers communicate better with their virtual students entitled "Kami." Due to the Pandemic, many of our students will not received face-to-face instruction, but rather virtual instruction. Kami will enable our teachers and our students to make this process easier and promote effective instruction and learning.

Several of our Virtual Special Education students were unable to receive the speech therapy they were entitled to due to not being inside the school building for months. To meet their needs, Speech Therapists will be contracted to work with them to receive speech services. These contracts will be approved by the Clarke County Board of Education.

Materials and supplies will be purchased for Special Education students and other vulnerable population students. Some of these materials consist of Spire instructional materials for students with reading deficiencies, classroom manipulatives, and other supplies as needed.

Clarke County will employ retired certified Elementary teachers to pull out and work with identified students with reading deficiencies in Grades K-3. The teachers will use the same reading materials that will be used in summer school and traditional school instruction, but will be working one-on-one or in very small groups to increase the students reading efficiency. The students will be recommended for remediation based upon Amplified Dibel Assessment data and classroom performance.

## 2D. Before/After School Tutoring

Describe how the following conditions will be maximized through the purchase of resources, tools, or other supports with the use of GEER funds:

- Aligns to *Alabama Literacy Act* requirements for students who are identified with a reading deficiency;
- Provides learning opportunities outside of the traditional school day; and
- Includes description of employee duties/responsibilities aligned to intensive intervention needs.

N/A

### 3. Budget Development

The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:

The LEA will use GEER funds for activities outlined in the application and allowable under Section 18002(c) of Division B of the CARES Act. The United States Department of Education **does not** expect administrative or executive salaries and benefits for IHEs, SEAs, or the other education related entities referenced at Section 18002(c)(3) to be a lawful purpose for GEER funds.

Total CARES Act - GEER Allocation: (NOTE: Make sure to include Equitable Services in the total)	\$166,392.00
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Provide a detailed budget to explain how GEER funds will be used at the LEA as identified by data, needs assessments, and other areas impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 3A. Equitable Services

Total Section A Allocation			
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Private School Allocation	See Detailed Narrative in Section 2A	N/A	\$0.00
Private School Admin. Costs	See Detailed Narrative in Section 2A	N/A	\$0.00

### 3B. Equipping School Buses with Wi-Fi Capabilities

[illegible]

**3C. Additional Academic Supports to Bridge Learning and Achievement Gaps**

Total Section C Allocation			
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Salaries	Salaries for Summer School/Remediation Teachers	1100-010/011-4300/8100	\$72,275.00
Benefits (If applicable)	Benefits for Summer School/Remediation Teachers	1100/220-250/4300-8100	\$11,737.95
Classroom Supplies (including print materials)	Materials and Supplies for Summer School, Special Education	1100-411-8100	\$13,717.05
Transportation (If applicable)			
Indirect Costs	N/A		
Other (If applicable)			
Speech Therapist	Speech Therapist for Virtual Students	2180-311-2900	\$25,000.00
Software Program	Software Program "Kami" to be used by teachers to support Virtual Learning	1100-419-8100	\$7,056.00

**3D. Before/After School Tutoring**

Total Section D Allocation			
Expense Items	Brief Description of Expense Items	Funding Source (Function - Object - Program)	Estimated Budget Amount
Salaries	N/A		
Benefits (If applicable)	N/A		
Classroom Supplies (including print materials)	N/A		
Transportation (If applicable)	N/A		
Indirect Costs	N/A		
Other (If applicable)			

## How will the LEA plan for implementation and measure impact for effectiveness for purchases identified?

Many discussions and meetings have been held between the Superintendent, School Principals, District Leadership, and parents to determine the highest needs in our District. The ALA has been mandated by the state and dictates that a summer school is held in Clarke County. The other items listed are prioritized needs. Upon the purchase and use of "Kami", virtual students and teachers will immediately implement it and it will allow them to communicate more effectively and easier which will encourage student achievement and help teachers become more impactful with their instruction.

Remediation for students in Grades K-3 with reading deficiencies could begin October 1, 2020. At the end of the year, the students who have remediation should show an increase in their reading achievement based on classroom performance and their end of year scores from the Amplified Dibels Assessment.

Contracted Speech Therapists for Virtual Special Education students could begin as early as September 1, 2020 based upon the availability of such services. The Clarke County Board of Education must also approve the contracts. The Special Education students would receive the services they are entitled to and show improvement based upon the goals in their Individualized Education Plans.

The purchase of materials and supplies for Special Education students and other Vulnerable Population students could begin as early as September 1, 2020. The use of these materials will increase student success and help meet the needs of virtual and traditional students.

Clarke County Summer School will be taught for four weeks during the summer and will meet ALA standards, regulations, and guidelines. Students will be assessed at the beginning of summer school and at the end to document an increase in their achievement with the goal of attaining grade level proficiency.

Bus Wi-Fi will be installed as soon as possible. This will enable our students to work remotely and also give our virtual students another internet option. It also will allow our district administrators to see where our buses are located at all times with the tracking system that is a part of the package.

## What is the proposed timeline for providing services and assistance to students and staff?

Clarke County would like to purchase all budgeted items by September 1, 2020. Remediation could begin as soon as October 1, 2020 as soon as retired, certified teachers become available and schools are open for instruction. Summer school will be taught for four weeks during the summer for four hours each day.

## OTHER ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS

### 4. Other Assurances and Certifications

*The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:*

- The LEA that receives GEER funds will, to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to COVID-19 in compliance with Section 18006 of Division B of the CARES Act.
- The LEA will comply with the maintenance of effort provision in Section 18008(a) of Division B of the CARES Act absent waiver by the Secretary pursuant to Section 18008(b) thereof.
- The LEA will cooperate with any monitoring policies and/or procedures with regards to the allowability of expenditures.
- The LEA will cooperate with any examination of records with respect to such funds by making records available for inspection, production, and examination, and authorized individuals for interview and examination, upon request.
- The LEA will use GEER funds for purposes that are reasonable, necessary, and allocable under the CARES Act.
- The LEA will comply with the provisions of all applicable acts, regulations and assurances; the provisions of Education Department General Administrative Regulations in 34 CFR Parts 75, 76, 77, 81, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98, and 99; the OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR Part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR Part 3485; and the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR Part 200, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR Part 3474.

## 5. Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act Assurances

*The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:*

(a) The purpose of this section is to assist the Department in implementing the Department's mission to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence throughout the Nation, by -

(1) ensuring equal opportunities to participate for all eligible students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries in any project or activity carried out under an applicable program; and

(2) promoting the ability of such students, teachers, and beneficiaries to meet high standards.

(b) The Secretary shall require each applicant for assistance under an applicable program (other than an individual) to develop and describe in such applicant's application the steps such applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and equitable participation in, the project or activity to be conducted with such assistance, by addressing the special needs of students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries in order to overcome barriers to equitable participation, including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age.

(c) The Secretary may establish criteria and provide technical assistance for meeting the requirements of this section.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter in any way the rights or responsibilities established under the

**What steps does the LEA propose to take to permit students, teachers, and *other program* beneficiaries to overcome barriers (including barriers based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age) that impede equal access to, or participation in, the program?**

Clarke County has policy which dictates that no student shall be denied educational services based on gender, race, color, national origin, disability, and age. If a student qualifies for these services based upon the aforementioned criteria, he/she will have equal access to and may participate in the programs listed or any programs in Clarke County.

## 6. Section 442 of the General Education Provisions Act Assurances

*The LEA Superintendent or his/her authorized representative assures or certifies the following:*

(a) Each local educational agency which participates in an applicable program under which Federal funds are made available to such agency through a State agency or board shall submit to such agency or board a general application containing the assurances set forth in subsection (b). The application shall cover the participation by that local educational agency in all such programs.

(b) The general application submitted by a local education agency under subsection (a) shall set forth assurances

(1) that the local educational agency will administer each program by the application in accordance with all applicable statutes, regulations, program plans, and applications;

(2) that the control of funds provided to the local educational agency under each program, and title to property acquired with those funds, will be in a public agency and that a public agency will administer those funds and property;

(3) that the local educational agency will use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that will ensure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds paid to that agency under each program;

(4) that the local educational agency will make reports to the State agency or board and to the Secretary as may reasonably be necessary to enable the State agency or board and the Secretary to perform their duties and that the local educational agency will maintain such records, including the records required under section 443, and provide access to those records, as the State agency or board or the Secretary deem necessary to perform their duties;

(5) that the local educational agency will provide reasonable opportunities for the participation by teachers, parents, and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals in the planning for and operation of each program;

(6) that any application, evaluation, periodic program plan or report relating to each program will be made readily available to parents and other members of the general public;

(7) that in the case of any project involving construction -

(A) the project is not inconsistent with overall State plans for the construction of school facilities, and

(B) in developing plans for construction, due consideration will be given to excellence of architecture and design and to compliance with standards prescribed by the Secretary under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in order to ensure that facilities constructed with the use of Federal funds are accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities;

(8) that the local educational agency has adopted effective procedures for acquiring and disseminating to teachers and administrators participating in each program significant information from educational research, demonstrations, and similar projects, and for adopting, where appropriate, promising educational practices developed through such projects; and

(9) that none of the funds expended under any applicable program will be used to acquire equipment (including computer software) in any instance in which such acquisition results in a direct financial benefit to any organization representing the interests of the purchasing entity or its employees or any affiliate of such an organization.

(c) A general application submitted under this section shall remain in effect for the duration of the program it covers. The State agencies or boards administering the programs covered by the application shall not require the submission or amendment of such application unless required by changes in Federal or State law or by other significant change in the circumstances affecting an assurance in such application.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information and data in this agreement are true and correct. I acknowledge and agree that the failure to comply with all Assurances and Certifications in this agreement, all relevant provisions and requirements of the CARES Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136 (March 27, 2020), or any other applicable law or regulation may result in liability under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729, *et seq.* ; OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) in 2 CFR Part 180, as adopted and amended as regulations of the Department in 2 CFR Part 3485; and 18 U.S.C. § 1001, as appropriate.

**Carmen Rotch**

LEA Chief Financial Officer (Typed Name)



LEA Chief Financial Officer Signature

(251) 250-2155

Telephone Number

02/26/2021

Date

**Larry Bagley**

LEA Superintendent (Typed Name)



LEA Superintendent Signature

(251) 250-2155

Telephone Number

02/26/2021

Date

**Send completed application to CARESapp@alsde.edu.  
Upon approval of the application, funds will be released to the LEA.**

**ALSDE Internal Use Only**

Date Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date ALSDE Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

State Superintendent and/or Designee Signature

Date

Date GEER Funds Released: \_\_\_\_\_