

MEMO: GEER EANS Application

TO: Eligible Independent School Heads
FROM: Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education 
SUBJECT: Governor's Emergency Education Relief Emergency Assistance to
Nonpublic Schools (GEER EANS) Application for Independent Schools
DATE: March 23, 2021

Purpose

By this memo you are notified that the application for Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS) is now available. GEER EANS funds are available as part of the [CRRSA Act of 2020](#). The deadline for submission of the application is April 30, 2021.

The [GEER EANS application](#) is available online. Vermont independent schools are eligible to submit a GEER EANS application if they completed the GEER EANS Intent to Apply by the March 19, 2021, deadline.

Background

On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 or CRRSA Act was signed into law. CRRSA provided significant additional support for educational entities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the GEER EANS fund.

- Total award to Vermont: \$4,284,369.
- Total award to eligible Independent Schools: \$4,084,369.
- The federal award period for GEER EANS is March 13, 2020 – September 30, 2023.

Eligibility

For purposes of the EANS program, an eligible independent school is an elementary or secondary school that:

- Is non-profit;
 - Is a Recognized or Approved Kindergarten, Elementary or Secondary Independent School in Vermont;
 - Was in existence prior to March 13, 2020, the date the President declared the national emergency due to COVID-19; and
-

Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information, please contact:

GEER EANS Program Team at aoe.geereans@vermont.gov

- Did not, and will not, apply for and receive a loan under the [Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program](#) (PPP) (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(37)) that is made on or after December 27, 2020.
- For more information regarding the interaction between PPP loans and GEER EANS, please refer to Questions C-6, C-12 and C-13 in the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#).

Allocation of Funds

To satisfy the Federal requirement that GEER EANS support targeted low-income students, the Agency of Education (AOE) has created an allocation formula based on total student enrollment with an additional amount per low-income student.

- The amount available per pupil in 2019-2020 is: \$561.03.
- The additional amount available per low-income student is: \$280.55.

Eligible Costs

An eligible independent school may apply for reimbursement or to receive services or assistance from the AOE to address educational disruptions resulting from COVID-19 for:

- Supplies to sanitize, disinfect and clean school facilities.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Improving ventilation systems, including windows or portable air purification systems.
- Training and professional development for staff on sanitization, the use of PPE and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
- Physical barriers to facilitate social distancing.
- Other materials, supplies or equipment recommended by the CDC for reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain health and safety.
- Expanding capacity to administer coronavirus testing to effectively monitor and suppress the virus.
- Educational technology.
- Redeveloping instructional plans for remote or hybrid learning or to address learning loss.
- Leasing sites or spaces to ensure social distancing.
- Reasonable transportation costs.
- Initiating and maintaining education and support services or assistance for remote or hybrid learning or to address learning loss.

Use of Funds

GEER EANS is unique in that it offers independent schools the opportunity to seek reimbursement for allowable costs already incurred or future allowable costs through the AOE. Similar to other federal funding programs, the AOE will be required to retain title to all goods and services and will work with schools to determine the process by which title is retained.

Schools may qualify for reimbursement for the expenses of any services or assistance described as eligible costs above that an independent school incurred on or after March 13, 2020, except for:

- Improvements to ventilation systems (including windows), except for portable air purification systems, which may be reimbursed.
- Staff training and professional development on sanitization, the use of PPE and minimizing the spread of COVID-19.
- Developing instructional plans, including curriculum development, for remote or hybrid learning or to address learning loss.
- Initiating and maintaining education and support services or assistance for remote or hybrid learning or to address learning loss.
- Any expenses reimbursed through a loan guaranteed under the PPP (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) prior to December 27, 2020.

School personnel will need to decide in their application if they are going to seek reimbursement for costs or if they want to partner with the AOE to procure goods or services through a contract. By federal requirement, all contracts must be executed by August 23, 2021. School personnel should contact the GEER EANS program team at AOE.geereans@vermont.gov with questions regarding the reimbursement or procurement process.

The deadline for submitting the GEER EANS application is April 30, 2021.

Technical Support

Once an application is received, the AOE's GEER EANS program team will work in consultation with the independent school during the review process to provide individualized technical support and guidance around procurement of services and the process for seeking reimbursement.

Per federal requirement, schools can expect that they will, after this consultation process, receive an approval or denial of their applications within 30 calendar days of submission.

The AOE has scheduled two "office hours" sessions in order to support application completion and answer questions. Additional sessions may be added.

- March 30, 2021 (time TBD): Introduction to the GEER EANS application
 - The program team will walk through the application webform in detail and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions.
 - [Register for this event.](#)
- April 12, 2021 (time TBD): Strategic Use of GEER EANS
 - The program team will provide an overview of the reimbursement and procurement processes and answer questions from the field as schools complete their applications.
 - [Join this virtual event.](#)

All questions regarding GEER EANS should be directed to the program team at AOE.geereans@vermont.gov.