

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AUGUST 23, 2023

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SUBJECT

Request to Reallocate Federal Coronavirus Relief K-12 Funds

REFERENCE

April 5, 2021

The Board approved the use of \$11,851,341 of the CRRSA Act ESSER II State Set-Aside Reserve funds to be distributed to local education agencies who received no ESSER II funds or low ESSER II funding and approved the use of up to \$300,000 in ESSER II SEA Reserve funds for the State Department of Education to administer the federal coronavirus relief funds; and the Board approved to preliminarily designate the use of the 2.5% of the ARP ESSER State Set-Aside Reserve funds to local education agencies who received no ARP ESSER funds or low ARP ESSER funds.

August 24, 2022

The Board received a brief update on expended ESSER funds, CRRSA and ARP EANS, and ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds; and the Board approved a \$4,748.00 difference in ARP ESSER State Set-Aside funds for non/low Title I-A LEAs resulting from an increase in funds by the U.S. Department of Education; and the Board also approved a reallocation in CRRSA State Set-Aside funds for non/low Title I-A LEAs resulting from LEAs not utilizing and returning funds.

BACKGROUND

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA) Act was signed into law on December 27, 2020. Included in the CRRSA Act, the performance period for the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) was extended from December 30, 2020, to December 31, 2021. DFM closed the Coronavirus Relief Funds on June 30, 2021, which means SDE's last GRA payment to LEAs was made on June 25, 2021.

The CRRSA Act provided Idaho an additional \$195,890,413 for K-12 public education under ESSER II. Of this amount, 90%, or \$176,301,372 was allocated to local education agencies (LEAs) based on each LEA's proportional share of Title I-A funds for 2020-2021. All CARES ESSER I and CRRSA ESSER II funds must relate to preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19.

CRRSA ESSER II funds must be obligated by September 30, 2023.

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DISCUSSION

At this time, several non-Title I-A and low Title I-A LEAs that were awarded a portion of CRRSA State Set-Aside funding through the Board approved formula have reported that they will not be able to obligate all funds currently allocated to them by the September 30, 2023, deadline.

The SDE estimates that these are approximately \$350,000.

Therefore, the SDE is requesting permission to redistribute the remaining CRRSA funds to non-Title I-A and low Title I-A LEAs who are able to obligate the funds by September 30, 2023. The original formula included a distribution factor that accounted for all non-Title I-A and low Title I-A LEAs. Redistribution of the remaining funds to only those LEAs who can use the funds will require modifying the formula to account for a distribution factor that includes a sub-set of all non-Title I-A and low Title I-A LEAs.

IMPACT

If the Board does not approve this request, up to \$350,000 of the CRRSA ESSER II State Set-Aside funds would likely expire and be refunded to the US Department of Education.

If the Board approves this request, up to \$350,000 would be accessible to the neediest schools. The methodology for reallocating will be based on the initial award per LEA previously calculated by the Governor's Office.

BOARD ACTION

I move to approve a reallocation of up to \$350,000 of unobligated CRRSA State Set-Aside funds to non-Title I-A and low Title I-A schools who can obligate the funds prior to September 30, 2023.

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ Carried Yes _____ No _____