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CONNECTICUT

**Update on
Federal CARES Act**

April 1, 2020

Key Provisions of CARES Act for K-16 Education

The third federal stimulus package, signed by the President on Friday, March 27th, includes \$30.75 billion for Education Stabilization Fund, which includes the following relevant funding streams:

- Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund | \$13.2B
- Governors' Emergency Education Relief Fund | \$3B
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund | \$14B

Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Fund - \$13.2B

Distribution of Elementary & Secondary Education Relief Fund

Distribution to States	State share of Title I funding for FY 2020
Distribution to Districts	District share of Title I funding for FY 2020
State Set-Aside	<= 10%
Local Education Agencies	>= 90%

Estimated
Allocation
to CT:
\$109.3M

Allowable Uses of Elementary & Secondary Education Relief Fund (Part 1)

- Any allowable use under ESEA, IDEA, Perkins (voc. ed) McKinney-Vento (homeless), Adult Ed and Family Literacy Act, Native Hawaiian Education Act, and Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support and Assistance Act
- Activities to address the needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth
- Planning and coordinating during long-term closures, including how to provide meals to eligible students, technology for online learning, and IDEA guidance

Allowable Uses of Elementary & Secondary Education Relief Fund (Part 2)

- Purchasing educational technology, including: hardware; software; connectivity; assistive technology; or, adaptive equipment
- Planning and implementing summer learning and supplemental after school program
- Mental health services
- Coordinating with public health department
- Training/PD on sanitation and minimizing spread of infectious diseases
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean LEA facilities

Governors' Emergency Education Relief Fund - \$3B

Distribution of Governors' Emergency Education Relief Fund

Distribution to States	60% on basis of state's relative share of population aged 5-24. 40% on basis of state's relative share of Title I-eligible (low-income) students
Distribution to Districts	Governor's choice based on allowable uses criteria
State Set-Aside	Governor receives funds then makes subgrants
Local Education Agencies	Governor receives funds then makes subgrants

Estimated
Allocation
to CT:
\$29.4M

Allowable Uses of Governors' Emergency Education Relief Fund

- Grants to Local Education Agencies (LEA) and Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) “most significantly impacted” by coronavirus to support continued educational services and to support ongoing functionality of LEA or IHE
- Grants to LEAs, IHEs, or any other “education related entity” for emergency educational services, which can include child care and early education, social/emotional support, and protection of education-related jobs

K-12 Federal Waivers

Conditions for K-12 Federal Waivers

- Expedited process: waivers approved or disapproved within 30 days.
- Not to exceed to 2019-2020 academic year, except in the case of MOE.
- Any school identified for support and improvement (CSI, ATS, or TSI) in the 2019-20 school year must remain in improvement for the 2020-21 school year and continue receiving supports.
- In applying for waivers, agencies must describe how coronavirus restricts ability to comply with the relevant statutory requirement and provide an assurance that the agency will work to mitigate any negative effects that occur as a result of the waiver.
- Waivers must be available for public comment prior to submission, Congress must be notified within 7 days of all approvals, ED must post approved waivers on its website and in the Federal Register within 30 days.

Allowable K-12 Federal Waivers: States and Indian Tribes

- **Assessments**, including alternate assessments for students with significant cognitive disabilities, ELP assessments, and provisions for recently arrived English learners
- **Accountability**, including long-term goals, indicators, annual meaningful differentiation of schools, and school identification for CSI, ATS, and TSI
- **Related Reporting** reqs for SEAs + LEAs, including: description of accountability system, academic achievement, other academic indicator, ELP acquisition, school quality or student success indicators, whether students met long-term goals, percentage of students assessed/not assessed, and students taking alternate assessments

Allowable K-12 Federal Waivers: States, Tribes, and School Districts

- Eligibility to operate a schoolwide Title I program
- Maintenance of Effort
- 15% Limitation on Carryover of Title I Funds
- Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants (Title IV-A)
- Requirement (for LEAs receiving >\$30,000) to conduct a needs assessment to inform district uses of funds
- Requirement (for LEAs receiving grants >\$30,000) to spend at least 20% of funds on activities supporting a well-rounded education, 20% on activities supporting safe and healthy students, and a portion of remaining funds on effective use of
- Limitation that no more than 15% of funds may be spent on technology infrastructure
- Definition of “professional development” under all ESSA programs

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund - \$14B



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Distribution of Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

National set-aside	\$1 billion set-aside for National HBCUs and other minority serving institutions (MSIs)
Distribution to Institutions of Higher Ed (including HBCUs, other MSIs & for-profits)	75% based on each institution's share of Pell Grant FTE students 25% based on each institution's share of total non-Pell FTE students

Estimated
Allocation
to CT:
\$136M

Allowable Uses of Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

- At least 50% of institution of higher education received funds must be distributed directly to students in the form of emergency grant aid for costs associated with coronavirus response/displacement (e.g. housing, technology, transportation, food, childcare, health care).
- Any costs associated with “significant changes to the delivery of instruction” due to the coronavirus, **except** payments to contractors for student recruitment; capital outlays related to athletics, sectarian instruction or religious worship; and endowment reimbursement and growth.

Student Loan Relief

Six month moratorium (i.e. through Sept 30, 2020) on all federal Direct Loans and pre-2009 federal FFEL loans owned by the U.S. Dept of Education

- No interest accrual
- Suspension of all involuntary collections, wage garnishment, and withholding or reduction of tax refunds during moratorium period
- Each moratorium month deemed a month in which payments are made for the purpose of federal student loan forgiveness (includes TEACH grants/loans & PSLF)

NOT included:

- NO moratorium on private student loan collection, federal Perkins loan collection, or federal FFEL loans not owned by the U.S. Dept of Education
- NO cancelation of underlying principal student loan debt

Estimated CT Grand Total Share of Education Relief Funds

Estimated Elementary and Secondary Education Relief Funds	\$109.3 million
Estimated Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds	\$29.4 million
Estimated Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds	\$136 million
Estimated Total Education Relief Funds	\$274.7 million