

South Dakota Department of Education

Federal Funding Summary

Overview

South Dakota has received approximately \$56 million in grant funding to support K-12 education, workforce training, libraries, and food banks in response to COVID-19 outside of the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF).

These grants, being administered by the SD Department of Education (SD DOE), include:

- \$41 million – Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds

- \$7.9 million – Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds

- \$6.9 million – Rethink Education Models (REM) Grant

- \$230,000 – The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

- \$80,000 – Emergency Services & Libraries Grants

The state has considered all available federal grants and their potential uses to provide schools as much flexibility as possible as they address their needs and costs related to COVID-19.

Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds

The SD DOE received \$41 million from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) in grants to public school districts through the Elementary & Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Funds. The money schools receive will be used to provide services to students and to fund their COVID-19 mitigation measures. Schools will have until September 30, 2022 to obligate these funds.

Districts have had unplanned expenses for cleaning facilities, adapting them to meet health and sanitation recommendations, providing technology and internet connections for remote learning, and providing breakfasts and lunches to students during school closures. These grants will help address those expenses. They will also help schools provide needed services to students. Examples of expenses schools might use the funds for this school year include additional contract days with teachers to assist at-risk students, special education and English learner services, or the purchase of technology to strengthen remote learning capabilities.

The CARES Act requires that no less than 90% of ESSER funds go to school districts following the Title I allocation formula. This means that districts with high poverty will receive the most money on a per student basis. The range on a per-student basis in this distribution is from \$3,734.30 at the high end to \$9.65 per student at the low end.

The state can reserve up to 0.5% for administrative costs. The remaining 9.5% will be granted to school districts on a per student basis so that all school districts will receive at least \$160 per student. Approximately 60 districts will receive this supplemental grant.

In Summary:

- 90% to school districts via Title I formula (\$37,165,707)

- 0.5% to SD DOE for administration of grants (\$206,476)

- 9.5% to some districts for a per-student floor of \$160 (\$3,923,047)

More information is available on the SD DOE website: <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/caresact.aspx>

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds

South Dakota was awarded \$7.9 million in Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds by USDE.

The State will offer \$5.7 million in grants to school districts to compliment what they received through the ESSER funding. Grant applications for these funds will prioritize quality remote learning, teacher professional development, and supporting students as they come back from extended school closures.

The remaining \$2.2 million will be granted to the Board of Technical Education to support workers who were displaced this spring due to layoffs or closures at the businesses where they worked. These workers will be eligible to apply for scholarships to pursue short-term certification programs at our technical colleges to gain skills for good jobs as the economy recovers.

Rethink K-12 Education Models Grant (REM)

South Dakota was awarded a total of \$6,883,481 for the REM grant for three years by USDE.

South Dakota was awarded under the category called Field-Initiated Projects for Educational Models for Remote Learning to Improve Student Outcomes. The department's aim is to support a framework to scale up and build out personalized, competency-based education to interested school districts.

- Objective 1: Enhance schools' capacity to support teachers in online learning;
- Objective 2: Develop classroom teachers' capacity to provide high quality education to learners in a remote setting;
- Objective 3: Advance school and community knowledge and capacity to provide a continuum of learning for all students in a remote or hybrid environment;
- Objective 4: Ensure pre-service teachers are ready to support K-12 students in a remote or hybrid learning environment;
- Objective 5: Expand communication channels with parents and support schools and teachers to better engage with parents/families.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

South Dakota was awarded \$155,000 from the Family First Act and \$75,000 from the CARES Act. Fund will be used to cover processing and delivery fees to provide food to South Dakota Food Banks.

Library Services and Technology Grants to States

South Dakota received \$79,937 from the CARES Act.

Under the CARES Act, this funding is to be used for the following purposes: to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, including to expand digital network access, purchase internet accessible devices, and provide technical support services. Matching requirements for these funds are waived.

The Department of Education, Division of Library Services is utilizing \$15,000 to support an online reading program and the remaining amount of the funds will go out to local public libraries to support the description above.