# **Arizona Department of Education (ADE)**



Kathy Hoffman
Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction

# **CARES Act Update**

GPEMC Combined Meeting May 15, 2020



### **SEA Application**

- ADE submitted the SEA ESSER Fund application on May 8, 2020
- ED approved ADE's application on May 11, 2020
- ED released guidance (and an emailed response for guidance) indicating the initial obligation date for ESSER Funds is March 13, 2020 – the date the President announced the COVID-19 National Emergency
  - > ADE and grant subrecipients may charge pre-award, allowable costs back to this date



### **Equitable Services Requirements**

- The CARES Act requires districts receiving ESSER (and GEER, as applicable) Funds to provide equitable services to non-profit private schools in the same manner as provided under ESEA Section 1117 (Title I-A)
- However, ED released guidance interpreting this requirement to apply differently to ESSER and GEER Funds:

#### Title I-A (ESEA Section 1117)

#### **ED ESSER and GEER Fund Guidance**

#### **How to Determine Proportionate Share?**

- Determine the total number of children from low-income families <u>residing in each</u> <u>participating public school attendance</u> <u>area</u> who attend public and non-profit private schools
- Determine the total number of children for <u>all children</u> who attend all public and nonprofit private schools <u>within the district's</u> <u>boundaries</u>

#### Who is Eligible to Receive Services?

- Students residing in the district and in a participating Title I public school attendance area
- All students and teachers in a non-profit private school
- Low-achieving students and their teachers



### **Equitable Services Requirements**

- A few states have indicated that they will not follow ED's recent guidance (*such as Indiana*)
- CCSSO has sent a letter to ED on behalf of their membership, and has been engaged with Congress regarding the addition of language to the HEROES Act (which may be considered on Friday) to further clarify the original CARES Act citation to follow ESEA Sec. 1117 (Title I)
- CCSSO has indicated that litigation may be likely from impacted entities
- There are risks in not following ED's guidance to include audit findings that may result in LEAs paying CARES Act monies back to ED, depending on ED's enforcement actions



#### **LEA Allocations Update**

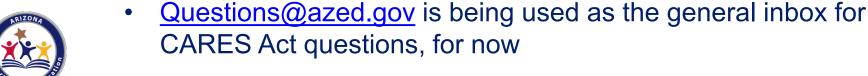
- ➤ 90% of Arizona's ESSER Funds are required to be allocated to 'Title I LEAs' based on the proportionate share of Title I funds they received last year (FY20). ED released new guidance on 5/8/20 on how to determine these allocations:
  - ED has **redefined what is meant by Title I funds received in FY20**. This requires calculating a new version of FY20 Title I allocations to derive a new 'ESSER Fund' FY20 total amount received for Title I
  - ED is now requiring SEAs to set aside funds from the 90% 'Title I LEA' pot to fund SY20-21 (FY21) new and expanding Title I charter LEAs even though these LEAs did not receive FY20 Title I funds. ED provided guidance on how this reservation and allocation calculations should be made
- We are recalculating ESSER Fund allocations for the 'Title I LEA' cohort based on this new guidance. Final ESSER Fund allocations for the 'Title I LEA' cohort will still land within a general range of 70-75% of what an LEA actually received (in GME) in original FY20 Title I funds though there could potentially be individual variations that could fall outside of that range due to ED's new guidance (FY19 and FY20 New and Expanding Charter LEA cohorts)

#### **LEA Grant Application Update**

- Grants Management is finalizing the grant application in GME (for the Title I and Non-Title I cohorts). We believe we are on track to launch soon in Mid-May, per our timeline
- The Grants Team has worked to incorporate an 'equitable services' page in the application, based on a provided excel template aligned to ED's current guidance, that will streamline and automate the calculation process for districts
- Guidance and technical assistance resources are being finalized to support LEAs in both cohorts with the application and planning process, to include:
  - CARES Act General Guidance
  - For each cohort:
    - ESSER Fund LEA Application Guidance
    - Recorded webinars, to include a walkthrough of the GME Application process

#### **Communications and Outreach Update**

- Outreach sessions have now been held with:
  - ADE and AZ Education Organizations
  - ADE External Stakeholders Group
  - ASBA & AASBO
  - Arizona Charter School Association
  - ESEA Title I Community of Practitioners (COP)
  - Arizona Association of County School Superintendents
  - AASBO
  - **GPEMC**
- > A new website has been launched: www.azed.gov/CARES
  - The site includes a landing page for ESSER:
    - www.azed.gov/CARES/ESSER





### **Estimated Timeline**

When	Action Steps
April 23, 2020	USED releases ESSER Fund Applications to SEAs
April 27 – May 7	ADE solicits stakeholder feedback, sets up internal operations, and completes application
Week of May 8 <sup>th</sup>	ADE submits application to USED *Promised a three-day application turnaround
May 8 <sup>th</sup> – Mid May	ADE provides LEAs with ESSER Fund grant guidance and resources to support local planning
Mid May	ADE opens ESSER Fund LEA grant applications *Funds released once application is approved

