



Equitable Services for Governor's Emergency Education Response Program

The following guidance clarifies expectations for equitable services for the GEER program, established by the federal CARES Act.

The CARES Act (Section 18005) requires an LEA receiving a subgrant under the GEER program to provide equitable services to students and teachers in nonpublic schools located in the Local Education Agency in the same manner as provided under Section 1117 of the ESEA¹, as determined in consultation with representatives of non-public schools.

Local Education Agencies must reach out to each eligible non-public school within their boundaries prior to submitting an application for GEER funds. This initial consultation is meant to determine each non-public school's interest in participating in the corporation's application. Non-public schools should be provided the following three options:

1. Agree to participate, and equitable services are included in the lead applicant's proposal
2. Agree to participate, but the equitable services needs differ from the lead applicant and a separate budget is included for the non-public school(s)²
3. Decline to participate or Intend to submit an application separate from the corporation

The Indiana Department of Education has developed an equitable services form³ that includes these options that can be used to solicit responses from each eligible non-public school.

Non-public schools interested in the GEER program may submit an application independent from the LEA in which they are located or opt to receive funds through equitable services if the LEA in which they are located is awarded funds. It is important to note that no applicant is guaranteed to be awarded funds and that not all LEAs will submit an application.⁴

If a non-public school applies individually or in partnership solely with other non-public schools a public fiscal agent must be identified to administer the funds. All schools included in the application will

¹ Per USED interpretation, the equitable services for GEER will be calculated upon total enrollment figures of the participating private schools within the geographic boundaries of the LEA

² Only the project narrative submitted by the LEA will be evaluated in these circumstances. The budgeted activities submitted by non-public schools participating through equitable services must align to the objectives of Component 1 of the GEER program application and will not impact the overall rating of the application.

³ Form can be found at www.doe.in.gov/grants/geer

⁴ All LEAs will be required to submit evidence of consultation with non-public schools within their boundaries to accompany any GEER program application.

also be ineligible to receive funding through equitable services should the LEA in which they are located be awarded funds.

Questions regarding equitable services or the GEER program in general may be sent to GEER@doe.in.gov.