

## Memorandum

To: The Legislative Advisory Board  
From: The Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery  
Date: May 7, 2020  
Re: CARES Act Education Funding

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***The Education Funding described below is not part of the federal “flex funds” that are the focus of GOFERR’s mission. This information, however, may be useful as the Advisory Boards prepare their recommendations.***

The CARES Act provides a number of funding opportunities for primary, secondary, and higher education. The three main provisions are Section 18003, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, Section 18004, the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, and Section 18002, the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund.

**Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund:** New Hampshire received \$37,641,372 for elementary and secondary schools.<sup>1</sup> At least 90% of that amount will be distributed to the state's local educational agencies (LEAs) using the 2019 Title I allocation formula, which is based on population and poverty rate. The CARES Act outlines the allowable uses of the funds. Allowable activities include:

- Coordination of preparedness and response to coronavirus
- Activities to address the unique needs of low income children, children with disabilities, English learners, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth
- Training and professional development for LEA staff on sanitation as well as purchase of cleaning supplies to minimize the spread of infectious disease
- Planning for and coordinating long-term closures
- Purchasing educational technology including hardware, software, and connectivity
- Providing mental health services and supports
- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including online learning during the summer months
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation and continuity of services in LEAs and continuing to employ existing LEA staff.

**The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund:** New Hampshire colleges and universities received a total of \$41,108,872 through CARES Act funding, including \$18,865,277 for the University System of New Hampshire, and \$5,995,472 for the Community College System of

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.goferr.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt366/files/documents/2020-05/20200417-doe-cares.pdf>. \$33,920,493 is budgeted for the current fiscal year, with the remaining \$3,720,879 budgeted for FY 21.

New Hampshire. Other colleges and universities received a portion of the remaining \$16,248,123. The allocations were based primarily on Pell Grant recipient enrollment. Institutions must use at least half of the Higher Education Emergency Relief funds for emergency financial aid grants to students. Institutions have “significant discretion” on how the emergency aid is allocated to students, according to a letter from the U.S. Department of Education.<sup>2</sup> “This means that each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds, which may include distributing the funds to all students or only to students who demonstrate significant need.” Recipients were encouraged to use a portion of the award to expand remote learning programs.

**Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund:** The CARES Act also created the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund. New Hampshire received \$8,891,470 from that fund.

**Additional funding:** Colleges and universities may also be eligible for programs under the CARES Act designed to assist businesses, such as the Paycheck Protection Program.

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<sup>2</sup> The letter is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresactgrantfundingcoverletterfinal.pdf>.