



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

September 14, 2020

Taylor Caswell  
Director  
Governor's Office of Emergency Relief and Recovery  
100 North Main Street, Suite 100  
Concord, N.H. 03301

Dear Director Caswell,

Pursuant to my authority under RSA 21-P:43; RSA 4:45; RSA 4:47; and Executive Order 2020-04, as extended by Executive Orders 2020-05, 2020-08, 2020-09, 2020-10, 2020-14, 2020-15, 2020-16 and 2020-17 I have approved your written request, in attachment, to take the following actions related to the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds:

1. Authority to transfer \$7,000,000.00 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding to the New Hampshire Department of Education (DOE) to support the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS). Budgeted consistent with the information in the request in attachment, effective through December 30, 2020. (100% Federal Funds)
2. Authorize NHDOE to accept and expend \$7,000,000.00 from the GOFERR to support the VLACS. Budgeted consistent with the information in the request in attachment, effective through December 30, 2020. (100% Federal Funds)

The Department of Administrative Services is authorized to take the actions necessary to effectuate this authorization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor

CC: Charles Arlinghaus, Commissioner, Department of Administrative Services  
Frank Edelblut, Commissioner, Department of Education



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

for

EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY

September 10, 2020

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION UNDER RSA 21-P:43, RSA 4:45, RSA 4:47, AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-04, AS EXTENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-05, 2020-08, 2020-09, 2010-10, 2020-14, 2020-15, 2020-16 AND 2020-17

Dear Governor Sununu,

- 1. The Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) requests authority to transfer \$7,000,000.00 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding to the New Hampshire Department of Education (DOE) to support the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) effective upon your approval through December 30, 2020. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds for this transfer are available in 01-02-002-020210-194600 - Governor's Office for Emergency Relief & Recovery, Office of the Director, as follows:

085-588556 - Inter-Agency Transfer of Federal Funds FY 2021 \$7,000,000.00

- 2. Contingent on approval of action item #1, authorize the NHDOE to accept and expend \$7,000,000.00 from the GOFERR to support the VLACS. These appropriations will be budgeted as allocated below effective upon your approval through December 30, 2020. 100% Transfer of Federal Funds.

Funds will be budgeted in FY 2021 as follows:

Table with 3 columns: CLASS, ACCOUNT, BUDGET REQUEST. Rows include 06-56-56-567010-19460000 VLACS - FUNDS FROM GOFERR-COVID, 611 - Charter School Tuition, SOURCE OF FUNDS, and 00D - Transfer of Federal Funds.

## EXPLANATION

The Virtual Learning Academy Charter School is a charter school that is approved by the New Hampshire State Board of Education to provide online, virtual school to elementary, middle, and high school New Hampshire resident students tuition free. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, VLACS course enrollments have increased dramatically as VLACS has been uniquely positioned to respond to the educational needs of New Hampshire's students as the instructional landscape in the state has shifted towards a remote instruction environment. Public schools across the state have taken advantage of VLACS' structure to ensure the continuity of student access to academic content. This funding will ensure that this avenue remains available to schools as the state continues to respond to the effects of the pandemic. In addition to enrolling in VLACS fulltime, New Hampshire students, enrolled in public, nonpublic, and homeschool settings may use VLACS as an educational supplement to their primary instruction.

Per NH RSA 194—B: 11, in FY 2021 the DOE reimburses \$493.44 VLACS for competencies completed in half credit courses. The DOE estimates that approximately an additional \$7,000,000.00 over the budgeted amount will be needed to reimburse VLACS for competencies earned in approximately 14,000 half credit courses by NH resident students on or before December 30, 2020. Upon enrollment, students indicate whether the courses they have enrolled in are related to COVID-19 concerns. Currently, 51% of enrolled 18,805 half-credit courses either actively enrolled or waitlisted are in direct response to the pandemic. Enrollment at the same time period during School Year 2019-2020 was 8,008 half-credit courses. The budgeted amount for VLACS was only 10,489,267.00, which is insufficient to cover the increase in enrollment due to COVID-19.

All CARES Act funds must be spent by the recipients before December 30, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph A Doiron  
Deputy Director, GOFERR