



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873
Email: fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov • Website: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>

February 16, 2021

TO: Representative Mark Born
Room 308 East, State Capitol

FROM: Christa Pugh, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

At your request, I am providing information about the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund created under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act.

The CARES Act was enacted by the federal government on March 27, 2020. The Act created an education stabilization fund totaling \$30.75 billion, a portion of which was designated to be awarded to the Governor of each state for the GEER fund. The CRRSA Act, enacted by the federal government on December 27, 2020, provided additional funding for the educational stabilization fund, including GEER. The CRRSA Act also created a separate fund within GEER for aid to private K-12 schools. Under GEER I, Wisconsin received \$46.6 million, and the state will receive \$98.3 million under GEER II, of which \$77.5 million will be allocated for private schools.

The CARES Act and CRRSA Act identify the following allowable uses for GEER grant funds: (a) provide emergency support through grants to local educational agencies that the state educational agency deems have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus to support their ability to continue to provide educational services to their pupils and to support their ongoing functionality; (b) provide emergency support through grants to institutions of higher education serving students within the state that the governor determines have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support their ongoing functionality; and (c) provide support to any other institution of higher education, local educational agency, or education related entity within the state that the governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students, the provision of childcare and early childhood education, social and emotional support, and the protection of education-related jobs. The acts allow the governor one year to allocate the funds, after which any unallocated funds will be redistributed to other states.

On June 17, 2020, Governor Evers announced that the \$46.6 million in GEER I funding under the CARES Act would be distributed to K-12 school districts, prioritizing districts based on their remote learning needs and how much they have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. A press release issued on July 23, 2020, identified school districts, independent charter schools, and tribal schools that would be eligible for funding. The press release identified the following criteria by which eligible grantees were selected: (a) percentage of pupils scoring below basic on the state English language arts assessment; (b) percentage of pupils from economically disadvantaged families; (c) percentage of households with no computer; and (d) percentage of households with no internet.

You asked whether the GEER II funds, excluding those allocated for private schools, could be used by the Governor to reward school districts that are providing in-person instruction. The CRRSA Act gives each state's governor discretion to award the grants to local educational agencies, institutions of higher education, or other education related entities. This language would not preclude the Governor from awarding the funds on the basis of whether or not a district is offering in-person instruction if he chooses to do so.

The attachment shows the distribution of aid to school districts, independent charter schools, and tribal schools under GEER I. The distribution of GEER II moneys under the CRRSA Act has not yet been announced.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have additional questions.

CP/ml
Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Amount of GEER I Grants to School Districts, Independent Charter Schools, and Tribal Schools

	<u>Total Allocation Amount</u>		<u>Total Allocation Amount</u>
Abbotsford	\$108,261	Fennimore Community	\$116,812
Adams-Friendship Area	207,971	Flambeau	77,826
Alma Center	86,667	Florence County	56,812
Almond-Bancroft	54,638	Fond du Lac	1,021,739
Antigo Unified	307,971	Frederic	63,768
Arcadia	184,638	Gilman	45,072
Ashland	303,623	Gilmanton	23,043
Athens	58,985	Goodman-Armstrong Creek	14,638
Augusta	90,870	Granton Area	32,754
Baraboo	422,608	Grantsburg	223,333
Barron Area	175,072	Green Bay Area Public	2,934,491
Bayfield	58,406	Greenwood	51,884
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine	32,464	Gresham	39,130
Belmont Community	55,072	Hayward Community	299,275
Beloit	919,855	Hillsboro	81,304
Birchwood	43,478	Independence	60,870
Black Hawk	54,348	Iowa-Grant	106,522
Black River Falls	248,406	Ithaca	62,899
Blair-Taylor	93,333	Janesville	1,434,637
Boscobel Area	112,029	Juda	42,464
Bowler	51,014	Kenosha	3,008,549
Brown Deer	224,927	Kickapoo Area	73,188
Bruce	64,493	La Farge	33,478
Cadott Community	120,580	Lac du Flambeau #1	76,377
Cambria-Friesland	52,609	Ladysmith	116,377
Cashton	90,145	Lake Holcombe	44,928
Cassville	29,565	Lancaster Community	142,029
Chequamegon	104,203	Laona	39,710
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area	142,174	Linn J4	15,217
Clayton	47,391	Loyal	71,304
Clintonville	179,130	Luck	63,768
Colby	138,841	Madison Metropolitan	3,890,143
Cornell	58,406	Manawa	91,594
Cudahy	332,753	Manitowoc	722,753
Cumberland	145,797	Marinette	289,275
Darlington Community	123,478	Marion	62,899
De Soto Area	73,623	Markesan	115,797
Delavan-Darien	286,377	Mauston	212,754
Drummond Area	50,580	Mellen	41,014
Elcho	39,565	Menasha Joint	485,362

<u>Total Allocation Amount</u>		<u>Total Allocation Amount</u>	
Menominee Indian	\$133,768	Wabeno Area	\$55,072
Mercer	22,899	Walworth J1	61,739
Milwaukee	10,823,618	Wausaukee	57,536
Montello	97,826	Wautoma Area	196,811
Necedah Area	104,203	Wauzeka-Steuben	36,957
Neillsville	134,638	Webster	100,435
Nekoosa	174,638	West Allis-West Milwaukee	1,162,318
New Auburn	44,783	Westby Area	153,768
New Lisbon	93,623	Westfield	151,884
Norris	3,623	Weston	42,899
North Crawford	63,188	White Lake	21,594
Northwood	46,232	Whitehall	111,739
Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton	91,739	Winter	36,377
Osseo-Fairchild	118,985	Wisconsin Dells	257,536
Owen-Withee	73,333	Wonewoc-Union Center	48,406
Phelps	16,957		
Phillips	110,435	Independent Charter Schools	
Plum City	36,667	21st Century Preparatory School	\$79,855
Prairie du Chien Area	167,826	Bruce Guadalupe	197,536
Prentice	53,043	Central City Cyberschool	68,696
Princeton	47,971	Darrell Lynn Hines Academy	37,101
Racine Unified	2,540,433	Dr Howard Fuller Collegiate Academy	43,478
Rhineland	348,261		
Richland	189,420	Escuela Verde	17,101
River Ridge	78,985	La Casa de Esperanza Charter School	21,739
Riverdale	106,087	Milwaukee Academy of Science	176,812
Royall	76,087	Milwaukee Math and Science Academy	32,174
Seneca Area	39,275	Milwaukee Scholars Charter School	102,464
Sharon J11	35,652		
Sheboygan Area	1,457,680	Pathways High	16,087
Shell Lake	98,985	Rocketship Education Wisconsin Inc	96,956
Siren	64,493	Seeds of Health Inc	132,174
South Milwaukee	437,826	Stellar Collegiate Charter School	27,536
Sparta Area	428,840	United Community Center Acosta Middle	25,797
Spooner Area	161,014		
Stanley-Boyd Area	160,000	Woodlands School - State Street Campus	50,000
Superior	657,681		
Suring Public	55,652	Tribal Schools	
Thorp	88,985	Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Schools	\$41,014
Tigerton	36,667	Menominee Tribal School	29,565
Tomah Area	454,493	Oneida Nation School System	<u>66,812</u>
Tri-County Area	87,101		
Turtle Lake	67,971	Total	\$46,550,410
Unity	133,333		
Viroqua Area	167,391		