

# **COVID-19 Federal Emergency Funding Overview for Special Education Directors**

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# **CARES Act Summary**

ESSER, GEER, and CRF

# CARES Act Family Tree

## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)

- US Department of Education
- Funds directly to LEAs and AOE
- \$28 million to LEAs
- \$3 million to SEA
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/22

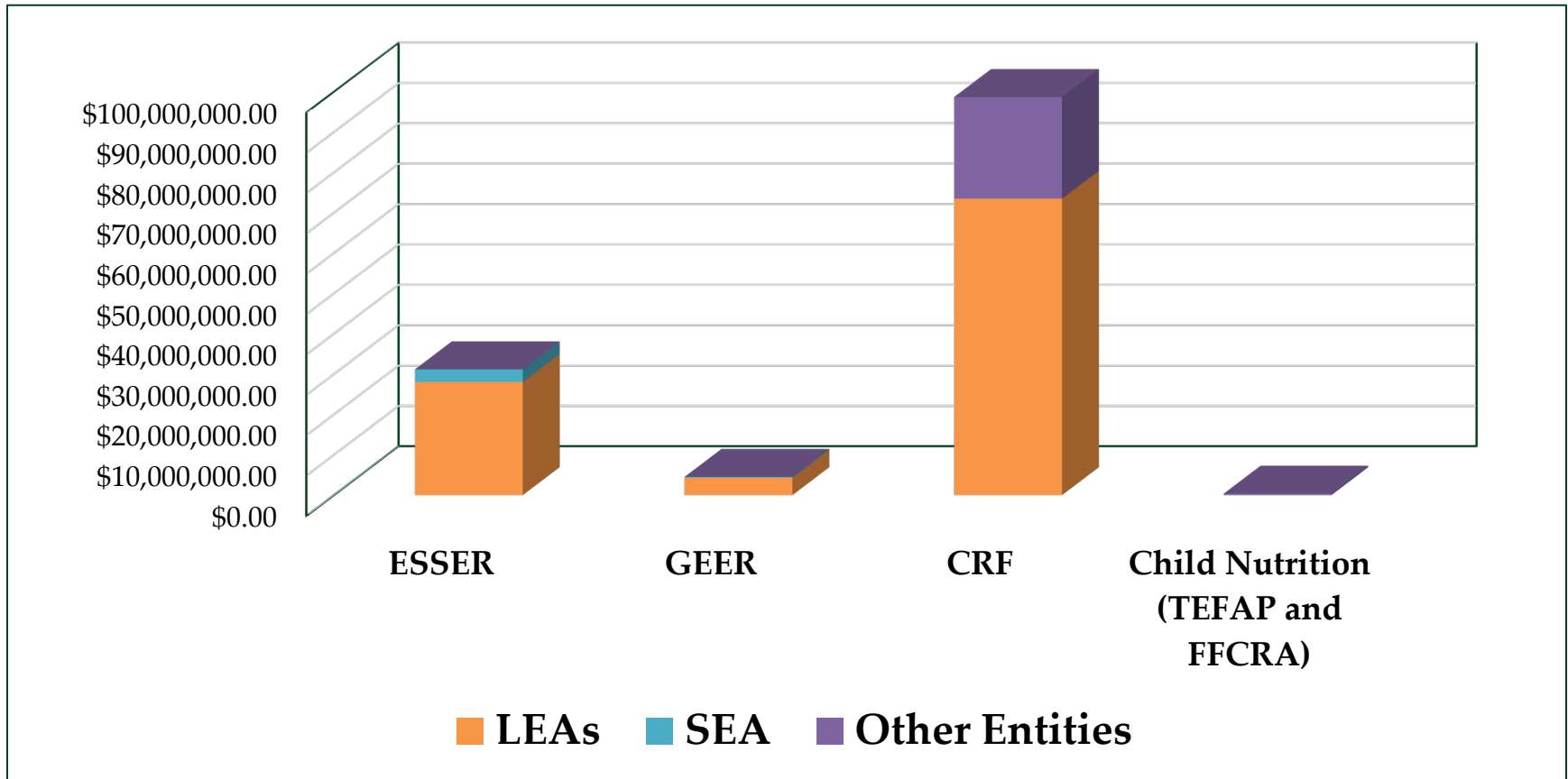
## Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)

- US Department of Education
- Funds to Governor's Office with AOE as administrator
- \$4.48 million to CTE centers
- Broad range of uses
- Goes through 9/30/22

## Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

- US Department of Treasury
- \$103 million allocated by Vermont State Legislature to education entities through Acts 120 and 154
- 5 grants administered by AOE
- Limited range of uses
- Originally through 12/30/20, extended through 12/31/21
- \$15 million in unused funds

# COVID-19 Federal Emergency Funds



	LEAs	SEA	Other Entities
ESSER	\$28,033,524.00	\$3,114,836.00	\$0.00
GEER	\$4,300,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00
CRF	\$73,451,395.00	\$0.00	\$25,204,695.00
Child Nutrition (TEFAP and FFCRA)	N/A	N/A	\$359,114.00

# ESSER

- LEAs received \$28,033,524 on March 27, 2020 as part of the CARES Act
- Grant goes from March 13, 2020-September 30, 2022
- Requires Equitable Services to non-public schools: provision of services and goods through process of consultation
- As of 1/12/21
  - 11 LEAs have approved grant awards
  - Total of \$6,787,345 awarded
- LEAs have until March 20, 2021 to submit their applications to AOE → funds will be returned to federal government on April 29, 2021

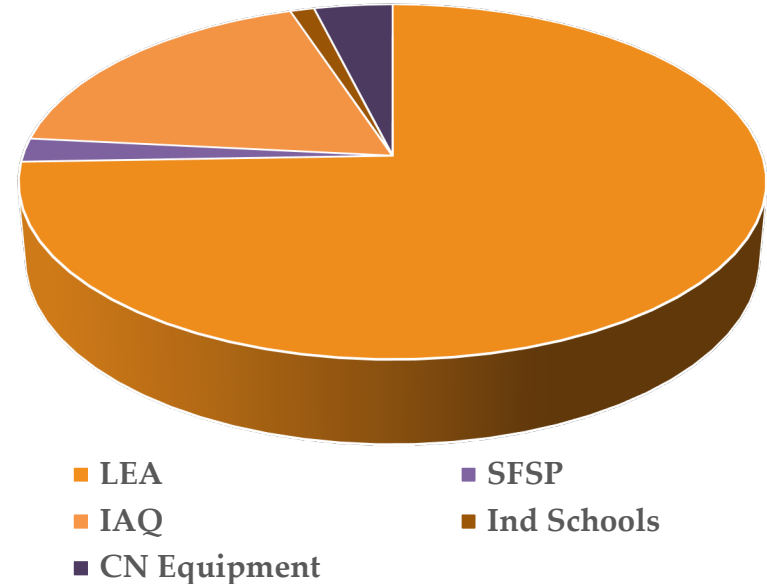
# GEER

- CTE Centers received \$4,488,802 on March 27, 2020 as part of the CARES Act
- Grant goes from July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2022
- As of 1/12/21
  - All 17 CTE centers have approved grant awards
  - All funds are budgeted
- LEAs have until March 20, 2021 to submit any amendments to AOE→

# Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)

- Legislature allocated \$103 million to 5 grants
- Broad range of uses must meet requirement of being COVID-19 necessary
- LEA and Approved Independent Schools grants were initially delayed by issue of FEMA
- \$15 million unused as of 12/30/20

Coronavirus Relief Fund  
Grants Administered by AOE  
(millions of dollars)



Coronavirus Relief Fund	
LEA	\$73,451,395
SFSP	\$2,118,296
IAQ	\$18,050,000
Ind Schools	\$1,184,553
CN Equipment	\$3,851,846

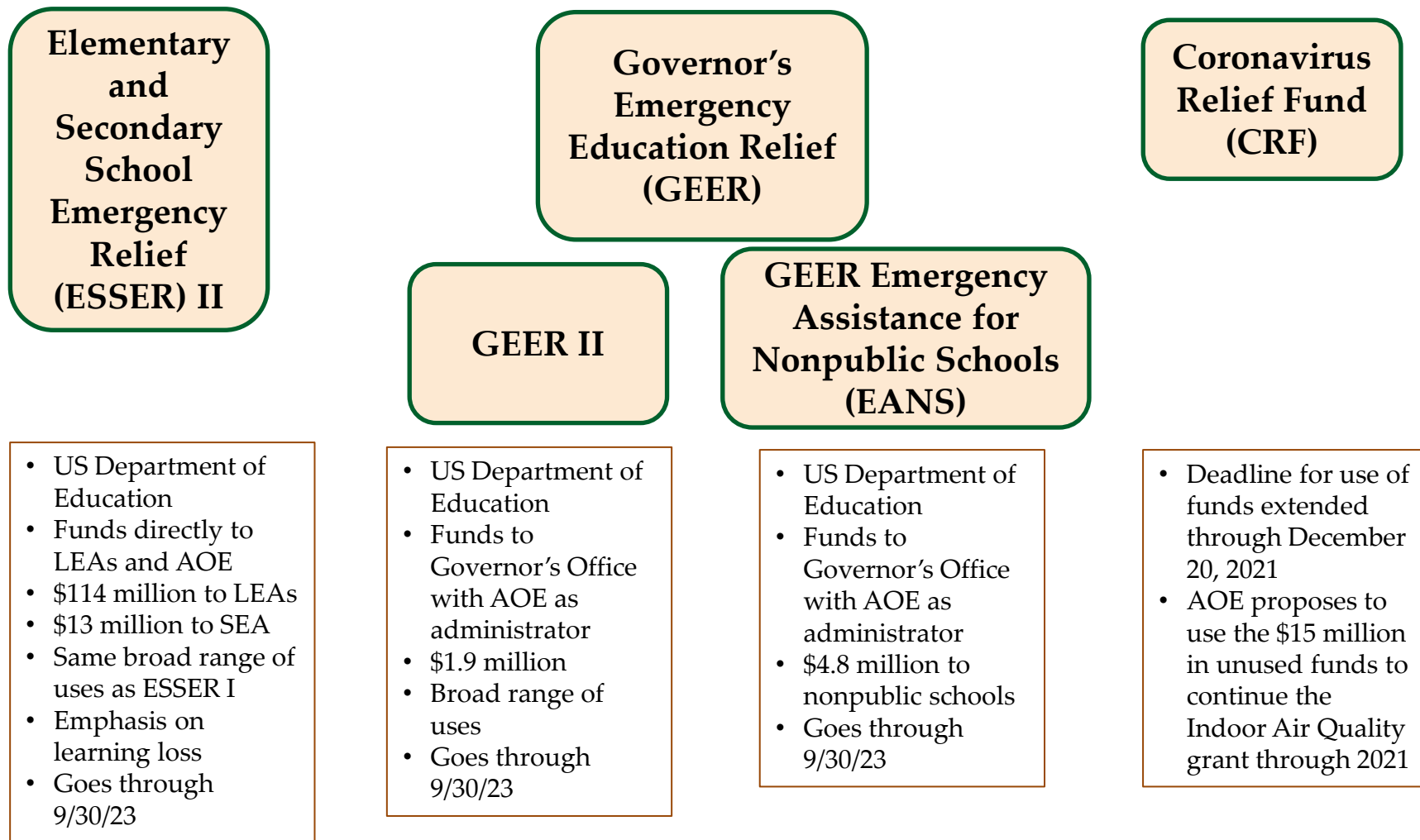
# **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)**



# Overview of Grant Programs

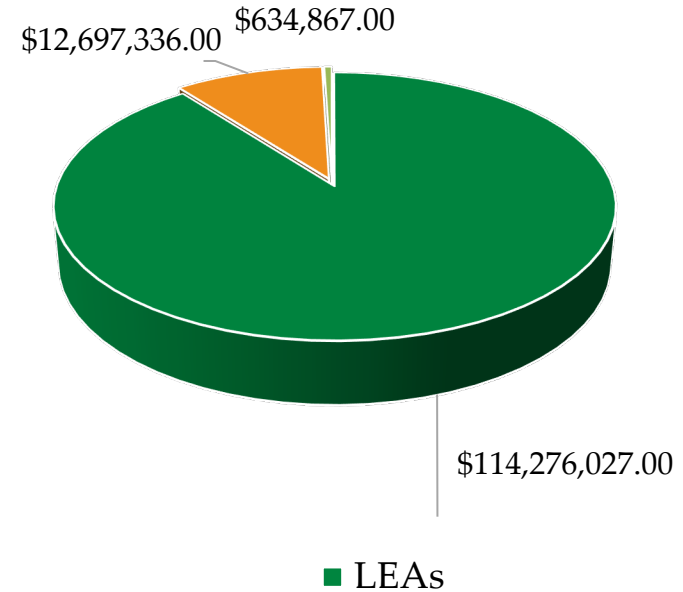
- Signed into law on 12/27/20
- Education Stabilization Fund
  - ESSER II
  - GEER II
  - GEER EANS (Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools)
- Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)
- Child Nutrition

# CRRSA Family Tree



# ESSER II

- \$126,973,363 allocated to Vermont (letter received from US ED on 1/5, GAN expected within next week)
  - \$114,276,027 to LEAs
  - \$12,697,336 for SEA set-aside
  - \$634,867 maximum for SEA administration



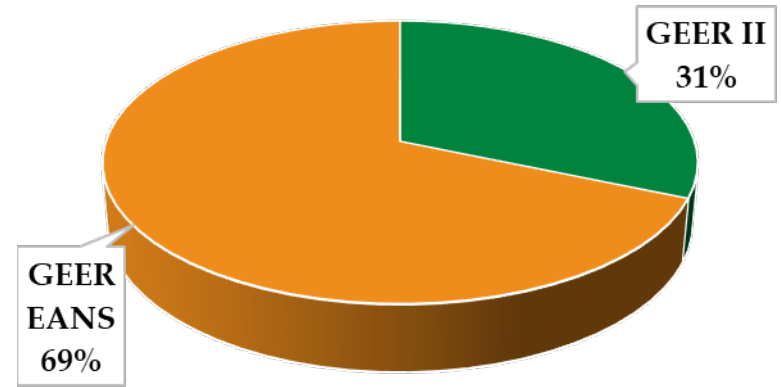
ESSER II	
LEAs	\$114,276,027.00
SEA Set-Aside	\$12,697,336.00
SEA Admin Max (included in SEA Set-Aside)	\$634,867.00
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Total	\$126,973,363.00

# ESSER II: Key Points

- **ESSER II funds must be tracked separately from ESSER**
- Period of Performance: pre-award costs back to March 13, 2020-September 30, **2023** (additional year past ESSER)
  - All funds must be obligated in an approved grant award by 1/5/2022
- **No Equitable Services requirement**
- Maintenance of Effort requirement “based on the **proportional share** of the State’s support for elementary and secondary education and higher education relative to the State’s overall spending averaged over FYs 2017, 2018, and 2019.”
- Same Allowable Costs as ESSER: specific emphasis on measuring and addressing learning loss
- Reporting- Required report at 6 months after award explaining how state is using funds to measure and address learning loss for student populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19

# GEER Fund

- GEER Total: \$6,242,000
- GEER II: \$1,930,818
- GEER Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS): \$4,284,000 total
  - \$4,084,000 available to non-public schools



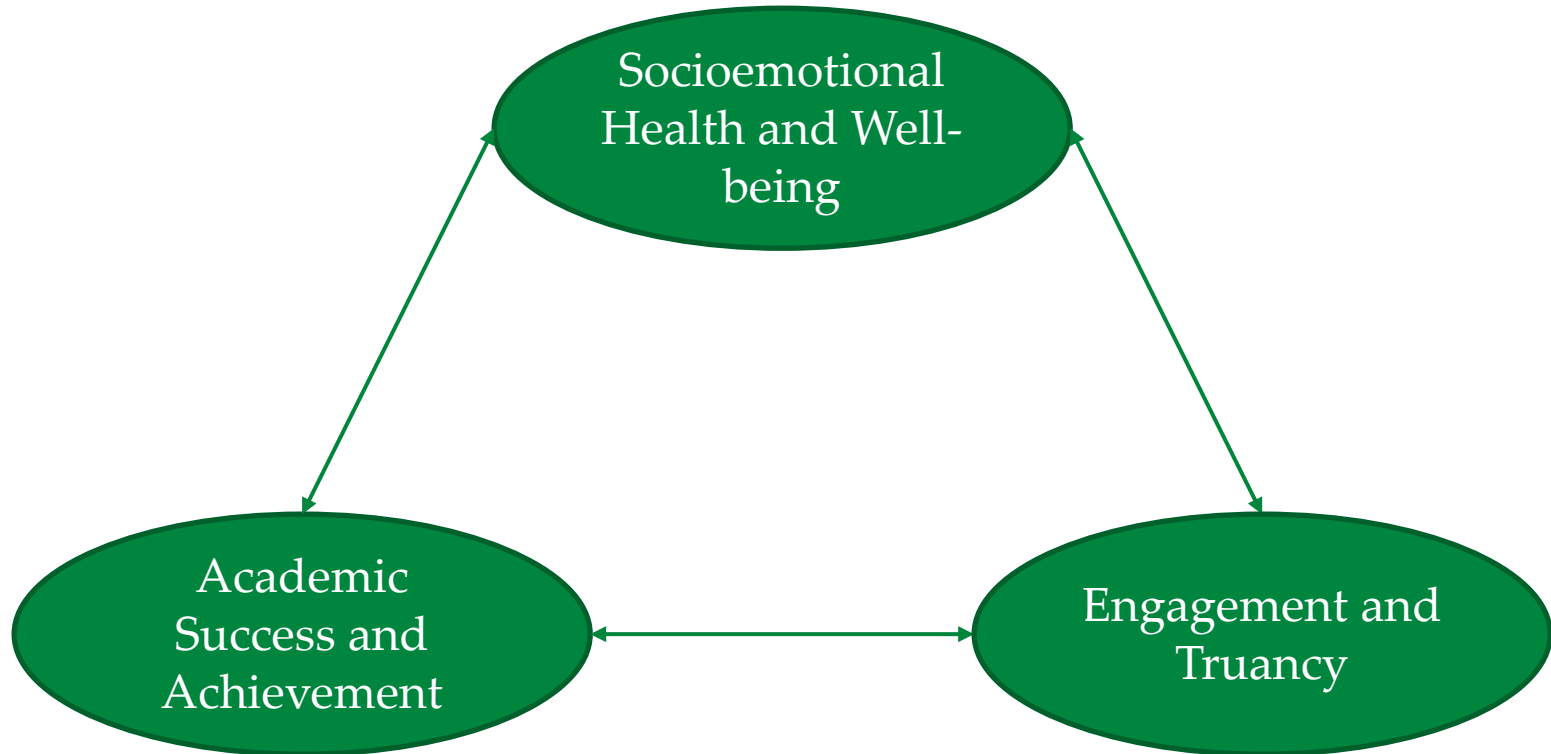
GEER II	\$1,930,818.00
GEER EANS	\$4,284,000.00
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Total	\$6,214,818.00

# GEER Fund Key Points

- Both GEER II and the EANS fund must be administered by AOE
- GEER - use of \$1,957,000 still to be determined by Governor/AOE
  - Period of performance- 9/30/2023
  - MOE requirements are the same as ESSER II- proportional share
- GEER EANS
  - Opt-in program → state must apply for this grant by February 8, 2021
  - State must retain control of funds (somewhat parallel with Equitable Services in ESSER)

# **How Can CARES and CRRSA Funds Support Special Education and the Recovery Plan?**

# Recovery Plan





# Recovery Plan (cont.)

1. Establish a Recovery Team and Recovery Coordinator
2. Assess need at the local level, using data readily available
3. Create an action plan to meet that local need (Recovery Plan) → planning for how to fund Recovery Activities using ESSER/IDEA/CFP funds
4. Execute initial implementation of the action plan
5. Refine the plan over time (PDSA cycle of Continuous Improvement)

# Uses of ESSER I and ESSER II

1. Anything allowable under IDEA (must follow same regulations and restrictions)
2. 14 additional categories outlined in ESSER II guidance
  - a) Hiring of additional staff to support remote or hybrid learning
  - b) Hiring of additional staff to support in-person learning in order to meet health guidelines
  - c) Purchase of adaptive/assistive technology to address learning loss, social emotional health, student engagement
  - d) Purchase of data management tools to assess student learning
  - e) A whole range of other costs to meet COVID-19 needs!