

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

Date: February 2021

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Operations

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To provide the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) with up-to-date information about the federal COVID-19 relief package titled the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and its impact on Kentucky school districts.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

H.R. 113; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

In March of this year, President Trump signed the first pandemic-related stimulus bill: H.R. 748, the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act](#) (Public Law No: 116-136, the “CARES Act”). On December 27, 2020, President Trump signed the 5,500-page [Consolidated Appropriations Act \(CAA\) of 2021](#).

Summary of Issue:

The CAA contains 12 appropriations bills finalizing funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, including the FY2021 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations legislation. It includes a COVID-19 relief package, with \$81.9 billion to Governors, state and local educational agencies (LEAs), and institutions of higher education (IHEs) to address COVID-19 related expenses and costs.

The \$81.9B is apportioned as follows:

- \$54.3B in new Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief (ESSER II) funds for public K-12 schools;
- \$4.05B in Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER II) funds, which includes a \$2.75B set-aside for services to private K-12 schools; and
- \$22B in Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER II) funds.

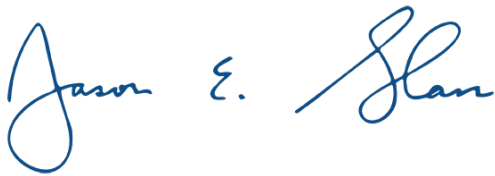
Kentucky will receive an additional \$928M in ESSER II funds, \$19.5M in GEER II funds to support LEAs and IHEs, and \$40.8M in GEER II funds to support non-public schools. With a couple notable expanded uses, these funds may be expended just as the original ESSER and GEER appropriations under the CARES Act.

Budget Impact:

The CAA permits the Kentucky Department of Education to reserve up to 10% of the ESSER II funds, as well as one-half (1/2) of 1% to offset administrative costs.

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Commissioner of Education

Category: <input type="checkbox"/> Educator Workforce Diversity Commitment	<input type="checkbox"/> Student-Centered Accountability System	<input type="checkbox"/> Portrait of a Graduate Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood	<input type="checkbox"/> Racial Equity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Support
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