STATE OF NEVADA
SUPPORT OF EDUCATION

COVID-19 Recovery and Response

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Background

Since school building closures began in March 2020 to promote the health and safety of students, staff, and communities, Nevada State Governor Steve Sisolak's team has been in constant coordination with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jhone Ebert (Superintendent), the Nevada Department of Education (NDE or Department), and other State agencies, providing consistent COVID-19 guidance, funding, resources, and flexibility relating to existing statutes and regulations that would impermissibly restrict educational opportunities for Nevada's students.

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State of Emergency Directives

To date, the Governor has issued six (6) State of Emergency Directives related to education:

- Directive 001, which closed school buildings through April 6, 2020
- Directive 005, which extended school building closures through April 16 and established emergency programs of distance learning
- Directive 014, which extended school building closures through April 30 and created additional flexibility for schools related to academics and graduation
- Directive 015, which extended school building closures through the end of the school year
- Directive 022, which supported the reopening of school buildings for summer activities and laid the groundwork for reopening plans for the fall
- Directive 028, which provided more detailed information about reopening requirements and expectations
- Directive 038, which updated the mitigation requirements for school settings to ensure equitable access to in-person learning opportunities for all students

The following table provides a detailed view of each education-focused Emergency Directive and the statutory and regulatory waivers effectuated by those Directives:

#	Outcome	Waivers Required and Related Guidance
001	Schools may reopen no earlier than April 6, 2020, and only upon the approval of the Chief Medical Officer of the State of Nevada after a review of the risk of transmission within the geographic area defined by the Chief Medical Officer.	Governor acted in accordance with his emergency powers under Article 5, Section 1 of the Constitution. Outside of emergency situations, decisions on school closures are made locally by school administrators, district leaders, and school boards. Related to: • Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 388.095 requires districts to schedule at least 3 contingency days (or equivalent for schools operating under alternative schedules) to be used if a natural disaster, inclement weather, or accident necessitates the closing of a majority of the facilities within the district. • Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 387.151 gives the State Superintendent of Public Instruction broad authority to count any school day as a day in session in cases of emergency.
005	• All statutory and regulatory requirements related to applications for Programs of Distance Education suspended for the duration of the Declaration of Emergency (later repealed by Directive 028) • Directed the Superintendent to determine a format and timeline for districts and charter schools to submit a Request for an Emergency Program of Distance Education (see Appendix A)	Distance education waivers: • NRS 388.834-838 related to applications for distance education courses • NRS 388.826 expand the definition of distance education to include paper correspondence • NRS 388.850-862 regarding enrollment procedures and eligibility Calendar waivers; districts/schools may submit updated calendars (usually submitted by May prior to

#	Outcome	Waivers Required and Related Guidance
	• Expanded the definition of distance education to include paper correspondence • Upon approval of Emergency Programs, enrolled each pupil into the Program • Granted the Superintendent of Public Instruction the authority to approve calendars that fail to comply with NAC 387.120 and NAC 387.125 • The requirements to conduct criterion referenced exams and college and career readiness assessments and all related reporting requirements were suspended in accordance with the waiver approved by the U.S. Department of Education • The requirements to administer end of course exams and all accompanying regulations were suspended	the start of the school year) and Superintendent may approve calendars that fail to comply with: • NAC 387.120 • NAC 387.125 • NDE issued Guidance Regarding Calendar Revisions for the 2019-20 School Year related to NRS 388.090 and allowing five additional professional development days in addition to those allowed under NAC 387.120 Assessment and accountability waivers: • NRS 390.105 – criterion referenced exams • NRS 390.610 – college and career readiness assessments • NRS 390.700 – end of course exams • NDE issued Assessment & Accountability Guidance • NDE issued ACT Assessment Guidance
014	• Superintendent of Public Instruction delegated the power to temporarily waive or suspend laws and regulations that place an undue burden on students' ability to graduate from high school • Regional Professional Development Programs (Regional Training Programs) directed to report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction • State Board of Education authorized to approved amendments to currently existing work-based learning programs that may fail to comply with regulation	• NDE issued Class of 2020 Graduation Guidance, including a waiver for the civics assessment under NRS 389.009 • Regional Training Programs created by NRS 391A.120 under the boards of trustees of the Clark, Elko & Washoe CSDs • Related to the definition of "unit of credit" of "at least 120 hours of instruction or the equivalent" per NAC 389.040. Updated work-based learning plans were approved at the April 25, 2020 meeting of the State Board of Education.
015	• Districts, charter schools, and university schools for profoundly gifted students should follow the Superintendent's Class of 2020 Graduation Guidance to ensure all eligible students receive the diploma they have earned	
022	• Effective June 10, 2020, all pre-K-12 school facilities may reopen to students, staff, and parents/guardians subject to conditions set forth in the Directive and guidelines issued by NDE • Districts, charter schools, and private schools shall develop plans for reopening school buildings, providing instruction, and related activities for the 2020-21 school year based on the *Framework for a Safe, Efficient & Equitable Return to School Buildings*	

#	Outcome	Waivers Required and Related Guidance
	• Emergency Programs of Distance Education approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction may continue through the conclusion of summer learning and extended school year activities for 2019-20 • The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall prescribe minimum requirements and a timeline for each district and charter school to develop a plan for a Path Forward Program of Distance Education	• NDE issued Guidance Memo #20-05 regarding Path Forward Programs of Distance Education and Guidance Memo #20-07 related to attendance coding for the 2020-21 school year (Certification for Path Forward Programs can be viewed in Appendix B) • Permitted five additional professional development days in the 2020-21 School Year in addition to those allowed under NAC 387.120
028	• Districts and charter school leaders delegated the authority to implement hybrid learning models in which in-person instruction is offered concurrently with distance education; set limitations on what criteria can and cannot be used to determine which students learn in-person vs. at-a-distance • Made face coverings mandatory for all K-12 students and adults on school grounds regardless of age with certain limited exceptions subject to the approval of the building administrator • Put in place a process for school leaders to request a variance from social distancing and minimum occupancy standards subject to approval by the Chief Medical Officer • Held Nevada Ready! State Pre-K providers harmless from reductions in funding due to capacity constraints related to social distancing • Reinstated the statutory and regulatory requirements related to applications for Programs of Distance Education to allow "traditional" programs of distance education to proceed parallel to Path Forward Programs • Delegated Superintendent of Public Instruction the authority to approve calendars that fail to comply with instructional time	• Senate Bill 84 (2019) requires a minimum number of Pre-K students for providers to receive funding (has not yet been codified in NRS/NAC) • NRS 388.834-838 related to applications for distance education courses • Instructional time minimums outlined in NAC 387.131. NDE has not provided guidance on minutes/hours for 2020-21.
038	• Once a county school district, charter school, or private school has been open for in-person instruction for at least 20 days, it may increase the occupancy of school buildings or facilities but must not	Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery: Pre-K – 12 Education Nevada Guidance for Adult & Youth Sports

#	Outcome	Waivers Required and Related Guidance
	exceed the lesser of 250 students or 75% of maximum occupancy based on listed fire code capacity of a single space within a school site • Once a county school district, charter school, or private school has been open for in-person instruction for at least 20 days, it may adopt social distancing protocols with a minimum allowable distance of not less than 3 feet apart between pre-K-12 students. • School transportation vehicles, including school buses, may operate at 66% capacity. • Students may remove their mask when playing an instrument that requires use of their mouth. When students are not playing an instrument that requires use of their mouth, they must wear a face covering, unless playing outdoors and social distancing of not less than 6 feet can be maintained between students and adults. When singing, students must wear a face covering. • Full-contact and close-contact sports governed and regulated by the NIAA may commence practice and competitions for full-contact and close-contact sports in accordance with guidance promulgated by the NIAA • Non-school facilities used for educational purposes (e.g., conference venues used for administering assessments) are subject to the mitigation requirements for schools	

Emergency Regulations

In June 2020, Governor Sisolak signed an emergency regulation that eliminated potential gaps in teacher hiring and licensure renewals due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- This emergency regulation allows the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to extend expiration dates of educator licenses for up to 12 months and provides certain exceptions for mandatory exams on alternative teacher licenses. Alternative licensees are individuals who have earned a bachelor's degree but did not complete a traditional teacher preparation program.
- The emergency regulation also addresses other logistical obstacles created by the pandemic including delays in fingerprinting and processing background checks.

In November 2020, Governor Sisolak signed into effect an emergency regulation making it easier for Nevada's school districts and charter schools to hire critically needed substitute teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The emergency regulation eased existing restrictions so the pool of licensed substitute teachers available for hire can be rapidly expanded and qualified substitutes can serve for a longer period of time.
- Existing statute provided an avenue to hire emergency substitute teachers, but was limited to rural school districts, school districts with fewer than 9,000 students, and rural portions of school districts with more than 9,000 students. It also limited the amount of time a person may serve as an emergency substitute to no more than five days in any 20-day period.

Educational Continuity

Nevada State agencies and communities came together to launch unprecedented partnerships to ensure educational continuity during the State's response to and recovery from COVID-19. Some such partnerships are highlighted below:

- NDE and the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation & Technology (OSIT) announced that **18,064 T-Mobile wireless hotspots with free high-speed data were distributed to schools** through T-Mobile's "Project 10Million." These hotspots helped Nevada close the digital divide by providing connectivity options that enable the State's most vulnerable students to engage in digital learning. Nevada's participation in "Project 10Million" was made possible through a settlement announced previously by Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford. T-Mobile provided the hotspots to the State at no cost for distribution to districts. NDE and OSIT worked with T-Mobile throughout the summer to allocate the hotspots to districts with the highest need.
- The Governor's COVID-19 Private Sector Task Force adopted bridging the digital divide for students and families as one of its priorities in the summer of 2020. In partnership with the Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation, Communities in Schools Nevada, the Public Education Foundation, and R&R Partners, the **COVID-19 Task Force launched ConnectingKidsNV**. At its launch in August, approximately 80% of Nevada's students did not have the device or connectivity they needed to participate in distance learning. *See status update later in this section.*
- In September, Nevada Gold Mines operated by Barrick Gold Corporation announced a $2.2 million investment in digital education in partnership with **Discovery Education** and the Nevada Department of Education, building on NDE's announcement of its initial partnership with Discovery in July. The two-year partnership will ensure public school educators and students statewide receive access to Discovery Education Experience, the award-winning, flexible K-12 platform that keeps students connected to learning whether at home or at school. Discovery Education is a global leader in standards-based, high-quality digital curriculum resources for K-12 classrooms.
- In August, the Nevada Department of Education announced a new partnership with **OER Project to provide high-quality instructional materials to students and educators**. This collaboration provides access to history course content that can be readily integrated into daily instruction. OER Project courses make sense of our world by connecting the past to the present with an eye toward the future. Its Big History Project and World History Project digital courses are available online and, throughout fall 2020, the courses will also be available on the Nevada Digital Learning Collaborative website as well as accessible through the Canvas Learning Management System. NDE is collaborating with OER Project to ensure teachers understand how to use the resources available in alignment with the State's social studies standards. Through this partnership, OER Project is offering teachers one-on-one consultation sessions, office hours, and other professional learning supports.

- In July, NDE announced the official launch of **the Nevada Digital Learning Collaborative (NvDLC) website**. The site features new tools and resources for grades pre-Kindergarten through 12 that will help educators, students, and families thrive in an online learning environment. On the NvDLC website, educators can find high-quality curricular materials and instructional strategies that help them meaningfully connect with students and families in a virtual learning environment. The NvDLC website includes tools to support educators in addressing the needs of diverse learners, such as students with disabilities and English Learners, hosts professional learning programs through which educators can hone their virtual teaching skills, and provides students and families with support regarding the new virtual learning environment, offering resources such as how to structure the day when digital learning. The site includes a translate option tab on each page, so a language of choice may be selected in support of English Learners.
- As a complement to the NvDLC, **NDE launched the Nevada Digital Engineers**, a specialized team of educators (teachers and administrators) tasked with creating content and providing continued and meaningful support to all stakeholders. The Nevada Digital Engineers is a network of experienced classroom, school, school administrators, and district leaders in Nevada who will build capacity for distance learning statewide by providing virtual training and coaching to stakeholders. The Digital Engineers continue to expand NvDLC website content in support of a long-term vision for this multi-use platform that will live beyond the pandemic.
- On January 5, 2021, **Connecting Kids announced that the coalition formed under the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force has reached and connected every K-12 student in Nevada participating in distance learning**, whether full- or part-time. In all 17 of the State's school districts as well as State- and district-sponsored charter schools, every student participating in online learning due to COVID-19 restrictions has confirmed at-home access to the internet and a computer. This represents enormous progress in closing the digital divide since Connecting Kids began its work in early August 2020, when schools were unable to confirm connectivity for more than 120,000 of Nevada's nearly half a million public school students.
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    - Statewide efforts:
        - The online tracker at connectingkids.org was updated almost daily with progress, and regular status updates were sent to 500-plus Statewide leaders, who consistently responded to calls for assistance.
        - Attorney General Aaron Ford negotiated with T-Mobile to make Nevada the first state to secure approximately 18,000 hotspots through their national "Project 10Million" program. These hotspots have been distributed according to identified need throughout the State.
        - The Nevada Department of Education under the leadership of Superintendent Ebert and Brian Mitchell, Director of the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology, mobilized resources and solved problems for district-sponsored charter schools and for rural districts, where students sometimes live in remote spots without access to most wireless carriers.
        - Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director of the State Public Charter School Authority, reached every enrolled student and worked with school leaders to ensure they had access to a computer and the internet.
        - Media partners stepped up with regular updates about the number of kids needing connectivity, especially in the Spanish-speaking community, where public service announcements ran regularly.
        - District and charter school leaders Statewide provided weekly updates on the number of connected students so the community could track progress.

- County efforts:
  - Communities in Schools Nevada worked with the Elaine P. Wynn Family Foundation to establish a virtual Family Support Center, where call agents connected families to the internet six days a week. The Family Support Center fielded more than 45,000 calls from families and connected nearly 18,000 families to reliable internet. The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force invested about $200,000 to contract with a proven vendor to supply the software for the Family Support Center.
  - The Clark County School District (CCSD) Board of Trustees and Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara agreed to issue internet subsidies (using federal CARES Act funds) to eligible families through the Family Support Center, and they reassigned support professionals and guest teachers to work as call agents.
  - Cox Communications authorized Family Support Center agents to sign up low-income families for their Connect2Compete program (at no cost to the family through June 31, 2021). Cox also allowed families without social security numbers to use their ID number from Mexico. Just three weeks ago, Cox announced it was doubling the download speed for Connect2Compete families to help those with multiple students participating in online learning.
  - CCSD, the City of Las Vegas, the City of North Las Vegas and Clark County assigned staff members to knock on doors as field agents to track down hard-to-reach students and provide them with whatever resources they needed to connect to school.
  - CCSD leaders provided daily data updates on the number of connected students so the community could track our progress.
  - Dozens of community groups, unions and faith-based organizations spread the word to families about the Family Support Center. Volunteers, food banks, and community organizations distributed more than 300,000 postcards with our Family Support Center phone number through door-to-door community walks and through food distribution centers.
  - Leaders from the Department of Family Services worked with the Family Support Center to connect every student in the foster care system with a computer and at-home internet.
  - In Washoe County, local business Click Bond helped district officials format devices for student use.
  - In Elko County, Nevada Gold Mines rallied businesses to purchase hundreds of computers.

Guidance and Supports Issued by NDE in Response to COVID-19

This list is not exhaustive but provides an overview of the key guidance and resources provided to districts, schools, students, and families by NDE.

Safe, Efficient, and Equitable School Building Reopening

- Nevada's Roadmap to Recovery: Pre-K-12 Education (2/21/2021)
- Nevada Guidance for Adult & Youth Sports (2/17/2021)
- Large Gathering Venue COVID-19 Preparedness & Safety Plan: Submission Guide (2/17/21)
- CTE Resource Guide (8/14/2020)
- Guidance Memo #20-07 (7/31/2020) related to attendance coding for the 2020-21 school year
- Guidance Memo #20-05 (6/24/2020) regarding Path Forward Programs of Distance Education
- *Framework for a Safe, Efficient & Equitable Return to School Buildings* (El camino hacia adelante de Nevada (un marco), released June 2020, updated August 2020

- Summer Learning and Activities Guidance (6/9/2020)
- Letter on Re-Opening Committee Role and Public Involvement (5/6/2020)
- NDE Path Forward Plan Response to COVID-19 (4/28/20)
- Ongoing Response to School Building Closures in Nevada (4/22/2020)

Assessment and Accountability Guidance

- Assessment Guidance for the 2020-21 School Year (8/6/2020)
- ACT Assessment Guidance (5/18/2020)
- Civics Assessment Waiver (4/15/2020)
- Class of 2020 Graduation Guidance (4/2/2020)
- Assessment & Accountability Guidance (3/27/2020)

Educator Development & Support Guidance

- Licensure Services during COVID-19 Updated (5/15/2020)
- Nevada Educator Performance Framework Guidance (3/24/2020)

Compliance & Fiscal Guidance

- COVID-19 CARES Act Guidance for Federal Titles Programs (7/13/2020)
- Guidance Regarding Calendar Revisions for the 2019-20 School Year (5/7/2020)
- Ongoing Response to School Building Closures in Nevada (4/22/2020)
- U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Waiver Approval (4/21/20)
- Charter Schools COVID-19 Grant Extension Guidance Memo (4/16/2020)
- COVID-19 Guidance for Federal Titles Programs under ESSA and McKinney-Vento (4/3/2020)
- U.S. Department of Education Waiver Approval (3/27/2020)

English Language Learners (ELL) Resources

- REVISED COVID-19 and ELs Provisional Identification Guidance Memo (6/30/2020)
- Fact Sheet-Providing Services to English Learners During the COVID-19 Outbreak (5/18/2020)
- COVID-19 Guidance Memo (3/19/2020)

Students with Disabilities Resources

- COVID-19 and Students with Disabilities (11/10/2020)
- Office of Special Education Programs Q&A 20-01 IDEA Part B Provision of Services in the Current COVID-19 Environment (9/28/2020)
- Fact Sheet: Addressing the Risk of COVID-19 while Protecting the Civil Rights of Students (3/16/2020)
- Questions and Answers for Providing Services to Children with Disabilities (3/12/2020)

Instructional Resources for Educators and Families

- Nevada Digital Learning Collaborative (NvDLC) Website
- NvDLC Instructional Resources
- Family Resources English
- Family Resources Spanish
- NDE Educator Support Hours
- English Language Learners (ELL) Resources
- Nevada Career and Technical Education (CTE) Resource Guide
- U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs Continuity of Learning During COVID-19

Student and Staff Health and Safety

Task Force Initiative for Educator's Safety and Screening (T.I.E.S)

On September 3, 2020, the Interim Finance Committee approved NDE's request for $6.2 million in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds transferred from the CARES Act account to fund a contract to implement the Task Force Initiative for Educator's Safety and Screening (T.I.E.S.). As announced by NDE on September 14, 2020, T.I.E.S. was designed in collaboration with district leaders, teacher representatives, and health professionals, and is a free COVID-19 testing program for participating educators, administrators, bus drivers, and school staff. Originally conceptualized to serve Clark County School District, the fifth largest district in the nation, NDE partnered with THT Health to expand T.I.E.S. to serve educators and staff throughout Nevada's 17 school districts and public charter schools.

Personal Protective Equipment

Prior to the opening of schools, NDE worked collaboratively with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Division of Emergency Management to procure and distribute an allocation of Person Protective Equipment (PPE) for the first four weeks of school to all school districts and the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA). Following this distribution, NDE again coordinated with the Division of Emergency Management and Department of Health and Human Services to procure and distribute PPE for the remainder of the first semester of the 2020-21 school year. The PPE included gowns, N-95 masks, gloves, and sanitizer. In addition, all districts and the SPCSA received a distribution of youth and adult size cloth masks from FEMA that were delivered or made available for pick up by the Division of Emergency Management. All of these coordinated efforts distributed millions of dollars in funding for PPE.

As of February 2021, the Nevada Division of Emergency Management has provided **over 4.5 million items of PPE** to public, private, charter & Tribal schools throughout Nevada.

Testing & Contact Tracing

State public health and emergency response teams have provided regular and consistent technical assistance to school districts and education leaders in line with best practices. This partnership has been critical to a safe and successful implementation of school building reopening plans throughout the state.

The Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) has been collaborating with NDE on BinaxNOW rapid test rollout and distribution to all interested public, charter, and private schools – regardless of their model for in-person or virtual instruction. Each participating school district or school will be required to have a State of Nevada laboratory license and a Federal CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) certificate prior to administering the BinaxNOW test. The DPBH Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC) has a plan to review licensure applications for each school district or school choosing to opt in to the BinaxNOW testing capability, whereas all schools within a school district or the SPCSA would be authorized branches of the singular, approved school district license.

DPBH helped support mitigation measures in school-based settings by assisting with implementation of surveillance, symptom monitoring and disease investigation. Efforts include the development of a School Absenteeism Monitoring System (SAMS), which serves as a standardized process through Infinite Campus for tracking and reporting on student absenteeism and symptom monitoring for Nevada schools.

SAMS has been utilized by the Washoe County School District (WCSD) and the Washoe County Health District (WCHD), and the data collected and analyzed through this program has been a useful tool to monitor irregularities in absences and has served as an early indicator of potential outbreaks. The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services worked in collaboration with the Nevada Department of Education to expand the SAMS program by extending it to all school districts throughout the state.

Additionally, DPBH has worked to provide critical funding for disease investigation surge staff to support Clark County School District (CCSD) and the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD). There will be over 150 staff to support CCSD by mid-March.

Local Health Authorities have been awarded funding from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to support the COVID-19 response in their region. This funding is provided through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (ELC) Supplemental Award. This funding can be used to address a large variety of response efforts, including staffing for case investigation and contact tracing in school settings.

Vaccinations

Pre-K and K-12 educators in Nevada were prioritized at the top of the Frontline & Essential Workforce lane under the Nevada COVID-19 Vaccination Playbook. This includes teachers, guidance counselors, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, cleaning and maintenance staff and every other valued and essential employee who serves Nevada's students. **To date, every educator in every county school district in the State has either received their first and/or second shot, is scheduled to get vaccinated, or has had the opportunity to access vaccination under this priority group.**

Of Nevada's 17 county school districts, 16 are currently operating in-person under different hybrid or full-time instruction models. Clark County School District (CCSD) is scheduled to have Pre-K through third grade return to an in-person hybrid instruction model beginning March 1, 2021. As a result, by March 1, all 17 of Nevada's county school districts will be providing options for in-person instruction.

Regardless of whether a county has completed vaccination of the educator priority group and has moved onto the next Essential & Frontline Workforce category, educators are still encouraged to schedule an appointment as soon as possible if they have not yet received a vaccine.

Federal Relief Funds

CARES Act Funding

The federal government provided support to State and local governments through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funding

Section 18001(b) of the CARES Act required the U.S. Department of Education to allocate $2,953,230,000 for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER Fund) authorized under section 18002 of the CARES Act. Nevada's allocation of GEER funds totaled $26,477,349 based on: (1) the 2018 State-level population data for residents aged 5 to 24 that the U.S. Census Bureau released in June, 2019, and (2) the Title I, Part A formula count from the fiscal year 2020 preliminary Title I, Part A allocations that the Department provided to Congress on January 22, 2020, and to States on January 23, 2020. These funds were used for items such as learning management systems and distance learning equipment to support ongoing functionality. The table below shows the distribution for how GEER funds were allocated in support of local education agencies (LEAs).

Pre-K	K-12 Education Direct Support to LEAs	K-12 Education Indirect Support to LEAs
$4,857,625	$16,602,349	$5,016,974

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funding

Nevada was awarded $117,185,045 in Elementary and Secondary School Relief (ESSER) funding through the CARES Act. Section 18001(b) of the CARES Act required the U.S. Department of Education to reserve $13,229,265,000, for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) authorized under section 18003 of the CARES Act.

Section 18003(b) of the CARES Act requires the Department to allocate the ESSER Fund based on the proportion that each State received under Title I, Part A in the 2019 fiscal year. Ninety percent, or over $105 million, of that funding was awarded to local education agencies through a formula determined by the U.S. Department of Education.

The remaining funds were set aside for Statewide activities to be allocated through a competitive grant process. The three priority areas identified by the Department for ESSER competitive allocations were: (1) high-quality digital instructional materials (2) high-quality professional development, and (3) wraparound services for students, families, and communities. On September 15, 2020, after an expedited application review process, NDE announced 31 grant awards to 25 recipients totaling $11,075,467 in ESSER funding as follows:

Award Category	Requested Amount	Applications Received	Preliminary Awards*	Applications Awarded
High-Quality Digital	$3,726,289.27	12	$2,016,457.19	6
High-Quality Professional	$9,789,645.02	24	$2,099,180.69	12
Wrap-Around Services for Students, Families, and Communities	$21,431,783.62	33	$6,959,829.24	13
TOTAL	$34,947,717.91	69	$11,075,467.12	31

*These are preliminary award amounts; figures may change due to the budget revision process. This potential for change is reflected in the fact that all awards summaries note "approximate" amounts.

HIGH-QUALITY DIGITAL INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- **Clark County School District** has been allocated approximately $948,137 to purchase software licenses to help students access quality digital learning opportunities.
- **Eureka County School District** will receive approximately $60,000 to purchase individual student equipment to support access to high-quality curriculum.
- **Humboldt County School District** will receive approximately $704,778 to purchase software contracts for both elementary and secondary students to ensure access to quality, State-approved, online curriculum.
- **Mineral County School District** will receive approximately $40,661 to purchase individual student equipment to support access to high-quality curriculum.
- **State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA)** will receive approximately $214,826 for its sponsored schools to purchase various online software programs to meet the needs of students.
- **Storey County School District** will receive approximately $48,055 to purchase software licenses to help students to access quality digital learning opportunities and provide aligned training for teachers.

HIGH-QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Achievement Network** will receive approximately $228,525 to assist 30 schools in making data- informed decisions regarding student achievement.
- **Churchill County School District** will receive approximately $248,530 to create a district consortium with Douglas, Lander, and Lincoln County School Districts to work with Modern Teacher to modernize learning at scale through the Digital Convergence Framework.
- **Clark County Public Education Foundation** will receive approximately $121,956 to support digital learning by providing teachers access to 6 modules to support designing curriculum and instructing in the digital world.
- **Clark County School District** will receive approximately $197,983 to provide high-quality professional learning to support the use of digital instructional materials so teachers are equipped to provide standards-based, tier-one instruction and social emotional learning for high needs students with disabilities in self-contained classrooms across the district.
- **Humboldt County School District** will receive approximately $113,750 for professional development to work with the following partners: Heineman's Fountas and Pinnell, Achievement Network, Great Minds, Pearson, Shake It Up Learning and Edgenuity.
- **Nevada State College** will receive approximately $112,564 for the Teachers Taking it Online (TTO) program. TTO is a program designed to provide high-quality professional development to up to 200 teachers across the Clark County School District.
- **State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA)** will receive approximately $154,742 for its sponsored schools to participate in professional development in the areas of distance learning, English language acquisition development endorsement, English Language Arts and instructional leadership.
- **University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Computational Thinking** will receive approximately $127,335 to support teachers in understanding the computer education standards.
- **University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Family Centered Program** will receive approximately $170,480 to provide support to special education teachers and guardians in early childhood education.
- **University of Nevada, Reno** will receive approximately $64,999 to support Lyon and Mineral Counties in implementing a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in six of their schools (two elementary, two middle, and two high schools).
- **Washoe County School District** will receive approximately $466,331 to support four distance education support trainers, materials, and equipment to support the trainings.
- **White Pine County School District** will receive approximately $91,985 to partner with WestEd to adopt new mathematics instructional materials and provide extensive professional development for K-12 educators on the World Class Math Framework.

WRAP-AROUND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

- **3S Learning** will receive approximately $106,930 to implement its Algebra Zero program to focus on students with highest needs across the State and provide them with an effective, accelerated alternative algebra program.
- **Boys Town Nevada** will receive approximately $617,225 to provide school support specialists and care coordination service consultants to address the needs of students and families.
- **Children's Cabinet** will receive approximately $362,308 for its Redfield Academy program which provides Washoe County School District students and their families with individualized and supportive educational programming alongside intensive wrap-around services.

- **College of Southern Nevada** will receive approximately $518,608 to implement an accelerated workforce solution that provides wrap-around supports to substitutes in its Highly Qualified Substitute Teachers (HQST) Program.
- **Communities in Schools of Nevada** will receive approximately $1,057,400 to implement wrap- around services through its Integrated Student Supports (ISS) program which provides Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 supports to high-needs schools in Clark and Washoe counties.
- **Humboldt County School District** will receive approximately $921,889 to work with various partners throughout the State to deliver a comprehensive Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to meet the social and emotional learning need of its students, parents, and teachers.
- **Jobs for Nevada's Graduates** will receive approximately $200,040 to provide virtual wrap- around tutoring supports to 8-12 grade students across the State.
- **State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA)** will receive approximately $390,951 to provide wrap-around services that build capacity for Integrated Student Supports (ISS) for its schools in the form of collaboration and partnership with community organizations, parents, and families, as well as social, emotional, and academic supports for students.
- **Southern Nevada Public Television** will receive approximately $574,015 to conduct virtual family engagement workshops, focusing on the highest need students throughout Clark, Nye, White Pine, and Lincoln counties.
- **Truckee Meadows Community College** will receive approximately $355,958 to provide supports to students in accessing rigorous math courses.
- **Washoe County School District** will receive approximately $833,545 to provide crisis counselors, social workers, and Family Resource Center advocates to provide wrap-around services for students and families.
- **University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Educational Environments** will receive approximately $721,382 to create an interdisciplinary team to execute its wrap-around ReInventing Integrated Student Supports within Educational Environments (RISsEe) program, which will implement a healing-centered schools approach to the provision of integrated student supports (ISS) in Clark County.
- **University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Anxiety Reduction** will receive approximately $299,577 to create the Engaging in Science Literacy Through Anxiety Reduction around COVID-19 (E-STAR: COVID-19) program as a wrap-around tool to support parent/adult engagement towards improving science literacy and providing resources to elementary and middle schools across the State.

Coronavirus Relief Funds for School Districts and Charter Schools

Nevada received an allocation of federal funding under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) established under Title V of the CARES Act. CRF dollars provided a direct allocation to State, Local and Tribal governments across the country to assist in navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. In addition to other federal funding allocations dedicating to supporting our schools, the State of Nevada used portions of CRF to assist Nevada's education system with distance learning and a return to in-person learning. The CARES Act requires that payments from the CRF only be used to cover expenses that:

1. Are necessary to support expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
2. Were not accounted for in the annual budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 for the State or government (in this instance school district or charter school); and
3. Were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends of December 30, 2020. (revised on December 27, 2020 to extend use through December 31, 2021)

Assembly Bill 3 (2020/31st Special Session)

As passed during the 31st Special Session of the Nevada Legislature and signed by the Governor, Section 117.5(4) of Assembly Bill (AB) 3 provided an additional $50 million in Coronavirus Relief Funding (CRF) to be distributed to the categories of pupils most likely to develop the largest deficits in educational attainment as a result of the loss of in-person intensive instruction:

- Elementary school pupils who exhibit a deficiency in the subject area of reading
- Pupils who are English learners
- Pupils who are eligible for free-or-reduced-price lunch
- Pupils who scored at or below the 25th percentile on an assessment of proficiency
- Pupils who attend a public school which is rated at or below the 10th percentile or lowest performing schools pursuant to the Nevada School Performance Framework

AB 3 delegated authority to the Superintendent of Public Instruction to identify other categories of pupils; however, it was determined to distribute funding in alignment with the categories determined by the Legislature. Funding as distributed based on the number of pupils in each district falling into the categories described above as follows:

[Chart appears on following page]

District Name				
Churchill	$	291,451.56	**Funding**	$ 50,000,000.00
Clark	$	37,100,087.25	**Per Student**	$ 151.48
Douglas	$	331,897.28		
Elko	$	742,716.74		
Esmeralda	$	9,694.85		
Eureka	$	16,057.10		
Humboldt	$	283,877.46		
Lander	$	70,136.21		
Lincoln	$	70,893.62		
Lyon	$	646,677.09		
Mineral	$	63,016.55		
Nye	$	808,308.49		
Carson	$	768,620.18		
Pershing	$	60,744.32		
Storey	$	21,964.90		
Washoe	$	5,470,018.66		
White Pine	$	98,311.88		
SPCSA	$	3,145,525.82		
Nevada State Total	$	50,000,000.00		

COVID-19 Mitigation Support for School Districts

Additional Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) totaling $10 million, have been allocated to the Nevada Department of Education for distribution to school districts and the State Public Charter School Authority. These funds awarded through NDE may be used to reimburse school districts and charter schools for allowable expenses that were incurred from March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

The $10 million of available funding has been allocated as follows:

- Funding for school districts and charter schools is allocated on a per pupil basis, using the four-quarter average of the Average Daily Enrollment (ADE) reports from the 2019-20 school year, which is the most recent audited enrollment data available.
    - District sponsored charter school enrollment is included in the sponsoring district's enrollment data and funding allocation.
- Funding for the three new charter schools, that opened at the start of the current school year, is based on the first quarter Average Daily Enrollment (ADE) report.
- All school districts will receive a minimum of $50,000, with the following exceptions:
    - Esmeralda County School District will receive approximately $31,855 and
    - Eureka County School District has declined additional funding.

District	Allocation
Carson City	$ 160,521.07
Churchill	$ 65,304.21
Clark	$ 6,441,154.36
Douglas	$ 113,227.56
Elko	$ 199,728.21
Esmeralda	$ 31,854.87
Eureka	$ -
Humboldt	$ 68,140.68
Lander	$ 50,000.00
Lincoln	$ 50,000.00
Lyon	$ 177,996.96
Mineral	$ 50,000.00
Nye	$ 108,417.44
Pershing	$ 50,000.00
Storey	$ 50,000.00
Washoe	$ 1,337,527.79
White Pine	$ 50,000.00
District Total	$ 9,003,873.14
SPCSA	$ 996,126.86
Statewide Total	$ 10,000,000.00

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplementary Appropriations (CRRSA) Act of 2021

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II)

Congress set aside approximately $13.2 billion of the $30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund through the CARES Act for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund). The U.S. Department of Education will award these grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the Nation.

Section 313(b) of the CRRSA Act requires the U.S. Department of Education (USED) to allocate the ESSER II Fund based on the proportion that each State received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) in the most recent fiscal year. However, section 1122(c)(3) of the ESEA prohibits the Department from considering the Title I, Part A hold harmless provisions in

ESEA section 1122 in calculating State or local allocations for any other program administered by the Secretary, including the ESSER II Fund. Therefore, to determine the ESSER II Fund allocations, used the fiscal year 2020 State shares of Title I, Part A allocations without the application of the hold harmless provisions in ESEA section 1122. Nevada will be receiving the following allocations through ESSER II funding which must be expended by September 30, 2022:

- Minimum local education agency distribution: $429,590,194 (90%)
- Maximum State education agency (SEA) reservation: $47,732,244 (up to 10%)
- Maximum for SEA administration: $2,386,612 (0.5%)
- Total: $477,322,438

NDE will continue working closely with the Governor's Finance Office and school districts to ensure timely allocation of federal relief funds.

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), was signed into law on December 27, 2020 and provides another $81.88 billion to the Education Stabilization Fund, including an additional $4,053,060,000 for the GEER Fund. Congress set aside $2.75 billion of the GEER Fund under the CRRSA Act specifically to provide emergency assistance to students and teachers in non-public (i.e., private) schools.

Nevada received a total of $31,385,542 GEER funds under the CRRSA Act. This new funding is intended to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on all students and families, including those who choose private schools. The portion reserved for Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) is $19,375,550. Under the EANS program a non-public school may apply to receive a variety of services or assistance from the SEA to address educational disruptions resulting from COVID-19. Services and assistance include, for example, supplies to sanitize, disinfect, and clean school facilities; personal protective equipment (PPE); training and professional development for staff on sanitation, PPE, and minimizing the spread of COVID-19; temporary physical barriers to facilitate social distancing; educational technology to assist students and teachers with remote or hybrid learning; and reimbursement of most allowable expenses incurred after March 13, 2020.

Other Federal Aid from the CRRSA Act

It is anticipated that several other aspects of the CRRSA Act and other Presidential directives will assist Nevada schools in responding and mitigating the COVID-19 public health emergency. The following recent federal actions will provide additional support:

- In January of 2021 President Biden issued a directive that allows FEMA to expand the activities eligible for reimbursement for work conducted after Jan. 21, 2021 and until Sept. 30, 2021. This will cover a variety of expanded costs including to support the safe opening and operation of eligible schools and child-care facilities. This may include funding for the provision of personal protective equipment, disinfecting services and supplies. Eligible costs will be reimbursed at 100% federal share.
- To provide additional critical support to jurisdictions as they continue to address COVID-19 within their communities, $19.11 billion from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, P.L. 116-260, will be provided to ELC recipients. These additional resources, by law, are intended to "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus" by supporting testing, case investigation and contact tracing, surveillance, containment, and mitigation including use by elementary and secondary schools and child care facilities.
- As a part of the end of year COVID relief package, Congress bolstered food assistance programs,

including boosting monthly SNAP benefits by 15% and provided new funding for food banks and school and childcare meals. USDA will increase the current daily benefit amount by approximately 15% to tackle the serious problem of child food insecurity during this school year when need is greatest.

Grant Awards Received

The Nevada Department of Education continues to tirelessly pursue competitive grant awards that will expand access to high-quality educational opportunity for all learners in Nevada.

- ***Expanded Access to Well-Rounded Courses Demonstration Grants Program.*** Nevada was one of only six states awarded federal funding through the Expanding Access to Well-Rounded Courses Demonstration Grants Program. The $2.6 million award will be distributed over a five-year period, with an award of $314,305 provided in the first year. This funding will expand access to career and technical education (CTE), Advanced Placement, and work-based learning course opportunities to rural school districts where such options were previously non-existent. In addition, the grant will provide services to support students with disabilities, including funding to hire additional special education teachers. Students will have access to these courses via distance learning, live streaming or in-person instruction options. The NDE is currently in the planning phase of implementing these courses, which may be available during the 2021-22 school year.
- ***School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program*.** Nevada was one of only five states awarded federal funding through the U.S. Department of Education's School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program. The $10.3 million award will be distributed over a five-year period, with an award of $2,391,322 in the first year. The funding will increase students' access to qualified mental health service professionals. NDE will leverage the grant funding to continue its partnership with the Nevada System of Higher Education to expand the pipeline of qualified mental health service providers to our schools. Recruiting providers from within our own communities helps address the urgent need for culturally and linguistically responsive services.

Looking Forward

The Governor's Office continues to provide multi-level supports to the Department and its partner agencies. The Department developed bill draft requests for the 81st (2021) Session of the Nevada Legislature that focus on equity, recovery, and alignment in an effort to close opportunity gaps, increase social-emotional supports, improve outcomes, and continue to meet the needs of students, educators, and families.

If additional federal funding is provided, the Department will work closely with the Governor, education leaders, and other stakeholders to work toward the goal of expanding and maintaining the return to in-person learning, in addition to identifying and implementing solutions to address any learning loss experienced by Nevada students due to the pandemic.