

## Administrative Memo

**Date:** July 8, 2020  
**To:** School Administrators  
**From:** Chris Neale, assistant commissioner, Office of Quality Schools  
**Subject:** QS-20-008 – Approach to Providing Equitable Services with ESSER Funds

Funds distributed to local education agencies (LEAs) through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Education Relief (ESSER) Funds carry an equitable services requirement to support nonpublic schools that wish to participate. The services must be allowable costs under the grant and be established through a consultation between the local school districts and nonpublic schools. Funds and title to any purchases must remain in control of the district and cannot be sent directly to nonpublic schools.

There are two possible calculation methods for the equitable services requirement; one is based on poverty, the other is based on population. To achieve the greatest benefit to all Missouri schools, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has elected to calculate the equitable share based on population. Because this approach impacts schools differently based on local characteristics, DESE will use its ESSER state reserve funds to provide a supplemental allocation to districts, including an equitable share amount. The use of the ESSER state reserve funds for this purpose will total \$3.9 million. This approach achieves the greatest possible good with the available funds.

DESE will post final allocation amounts, including equitable share calculations, on the [CARES Act webpage](#) on July 13, 2020. Districts that have completed the necessary consultation with the nonpublic schools in their boundary lines, or do not have a consultation to complete, may immediately request access to their remaining ESSER Funds. Please note that ESSER Fund payments are reimbursements and requests for funds can only include the amount expended to date.

Visit [dese.mo.gov/cares-act](http://dese.mo.gov/cares-act) for additional information. Districts and nonpublic schools with questions should contact Julie Cowell at [Julia.Cowell@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Julia.Cowell@dese.mo.gov) or 573-751-8289.