CCIP Note #533

Re: Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund II Support for Nonpublic Schools (GEER II SNS) Application Announcement
Date: August 11, 2023
To: Nonpublic School Principals, Education Service Center Authorized Representatives and Education Service Center Fiscal Representatives

Support for Nonpublic Schools Application Announcement
The Ohio Department of Education (the Department) is pleased to announce a program to support nonpublic schools impacted by COVID-19 called the GEER II Support for Nonpublic Schools (GEER II SNS) program. Under the GEER II SNS program, the Department will provide $26,192,054 in services to eligible nonpublic schools in Ohio. Nonpublic schools must apply to receive a GEER II SNS service amount.

Application Process
On August 22, nonpublic school principals will receive a direct email from donotreply@ohio-k12.help with a link to the GEER II SNS application and must complete it to receive services. The application will be open from August 22, 2023 to September 6, 2023. In mid-September, nonpublic schools that applied will find out their service amount and the Education Service Center (ESC) provider that will be providing services to their school. Services will be provided to nonpublic schools through September 30, 2024.

GEER II SNS services will be prioritized to nonpublic schools that were not eligible for the Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (EANS) program due to receiving a PPP loan on or after December 27, 2020, as well as nonpublic schools that were not eligible for ARP EANS because of the poverty threshold requirements. Nonpublic schools that received an EANS or ARP EANS service amount are eligible to apply for this GEER program but must demonstrate additional needs beyond the service amounts received under EANS. The Department will use a weighted approach to determine GEER II SNS service amounts based on total enrollment, poverty, requested amount on the application, eligibility due to PPP, eligibility for ARP EANS, and impact of COVID-19 data.

Under the GEER II SNS program, nonpublic schools are not considered direct recipients of federal funds. Nonpublic schools that apply and are selected will receive a service amount. Services will be provided by Education Service Centers (ESCs). The Department will seek input from the participating schools regarding their preferences for ESC service providers, and the Department will contract with the ESCs who are interested in serving in this capacity. The contracted ESCs will provide services in the amount of the GEER II SNS service amount for each school.

Allowable Uses
Schools that were ineligible for EANS/ARP EANS due to receiving a PPP loan on or after December 27, 2020, or schools that were ineligible for ARP EANS due to the poverty threshold may receive one or more of the following services:

- Supplies to sanitize, disinfect, and clean school facilities
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Improving ventilation systems, including windows or portable air purification systems
- Training and professional development for staff on sanitization, the use of PPE, and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases
- Physical barriers to facilitate social distancing
- Other materials, supplies or equipment recommended by the CDC for reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain health and safety
- Expanding capacity to administer coronavirus testing to effectively monitor and suppress the virus
- Educational technology
- Redeveloping instructional plans for remote or hybrid learning or to address learning loss
- Leasing sites or spaces to ensure social distancing

- Reasonable transportation costs
- Initiating and maintaining education and support services or assistance for remote or hybrid learning or to address learning loss
- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental after-school programs;
- Providing mental health services and supports, including through the implementation of evidence based full-service community schools and the hiring of counselors;
- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, connectivity, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment) for students that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including students from low-income families and children with disabilities;
- Addressing the needs of children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth; and
- Activities authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

For nonpublic schools that received both EANS and ARP EANS but have additional needs in response to COVID-19, funds may be used to support literacy efforts aligned to the Science of Reading and Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement, including:

- Purchasing high-quality instructional materials;
- Professional development; and
- Literacy coaches.

Resources
GEER II SNS Application Template
US Department of Education GEER Resources

If you have questions, please contact eans@education.ohio.gov.