CCIP Note #534

Re: GEER II Support for Nonpublic Schools (GEER II SNS) Application Now Open
Date: August 22, 2023
To: Nonpublic School Principals, Education Service Center Authorized Representatives and Education Service Center Fiscal Representatives

Support for Nonpublic Schools Application Announcement
On August 11, 2023, the Ohio Department of Education (the Department) announced a program to support nonpublic schools impacted by COVID-19 called the GEER II Support for Nonpublic Schools (GEER II SNS) program. For more information, see CCIP Note 533. 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 Now Open
On August 22, 2023 all nonpublic school principals in Ohio with contact information on file in the Ohio Education Directory System (OEDS) received a direct email from donotreply@ohio-k12.help with a link to the GEER II SNS application. Nonpublic schools must complete the application to receive services. The application will be open from August 22, 2023 to September 6, 2023.

If your school principal did not receive an email from donotreply@ohio-k12.help on August 22, 2023, please reach out to eans@education.ohio.gov to inform the Department and receive the GEER II SNS application link. Please include the name of the nonpublic school when contacting the Department.

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 Additional Information
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.

Literacy Resources

Nonpublic schools can find important literacy resources on the Department's Read Ohio webpage. Included are several helpful videos, guides, and professional development resources related to the Science of Reading. Literacy efforts aligned to the Science of Reading may be funded out of the GEER II SNS program. It is important to note that under the GEER II SNS program, the school is not a direct recipient of federal funds, rather it receives services through the Education Service Center assigned to the school. The ESC selected to provide services to the school will work in consultation to determine allowable services and render those services on behalf of the Department.

Resources

GEER II SNS Application Template
US Department of Education GEER Resources
Read Ohio Literacy Resources

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