

Department of Education & Workforce

GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF II SUPPORT FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS (GEER II SNS)

Introductory Webinar

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GEER II SUPPORT FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Overview
- Role of the ESC
- GEER II SNS Services
- Invoice Process
- Questions and Answers

GEER II SNS OVERVIEW

- The Governor's Emergency Education Relief II Support for Nonpublic Schools (GEER II SNS) program is a program under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief II (GEER II) fund designed to serve nonpublic schools in response to COVID-19. The GEER II program is authorized through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (December 27, 2020).

- Under the GEER II SNS program, the Department contracts with Education Service Centers (ESCs) to provide services to nonpublic schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

GEER II SNS

Program Announced August 11, 2023

$26,192,054

- Award Amount

Sept. 2023

- Nonpublic Schools Applied
- Final Service Amounts Calculated
- CCIP Notes 533 & 534

ESC Partners

- Schools Distributed to Nearby ESCs
- Contracts provided to ESCs

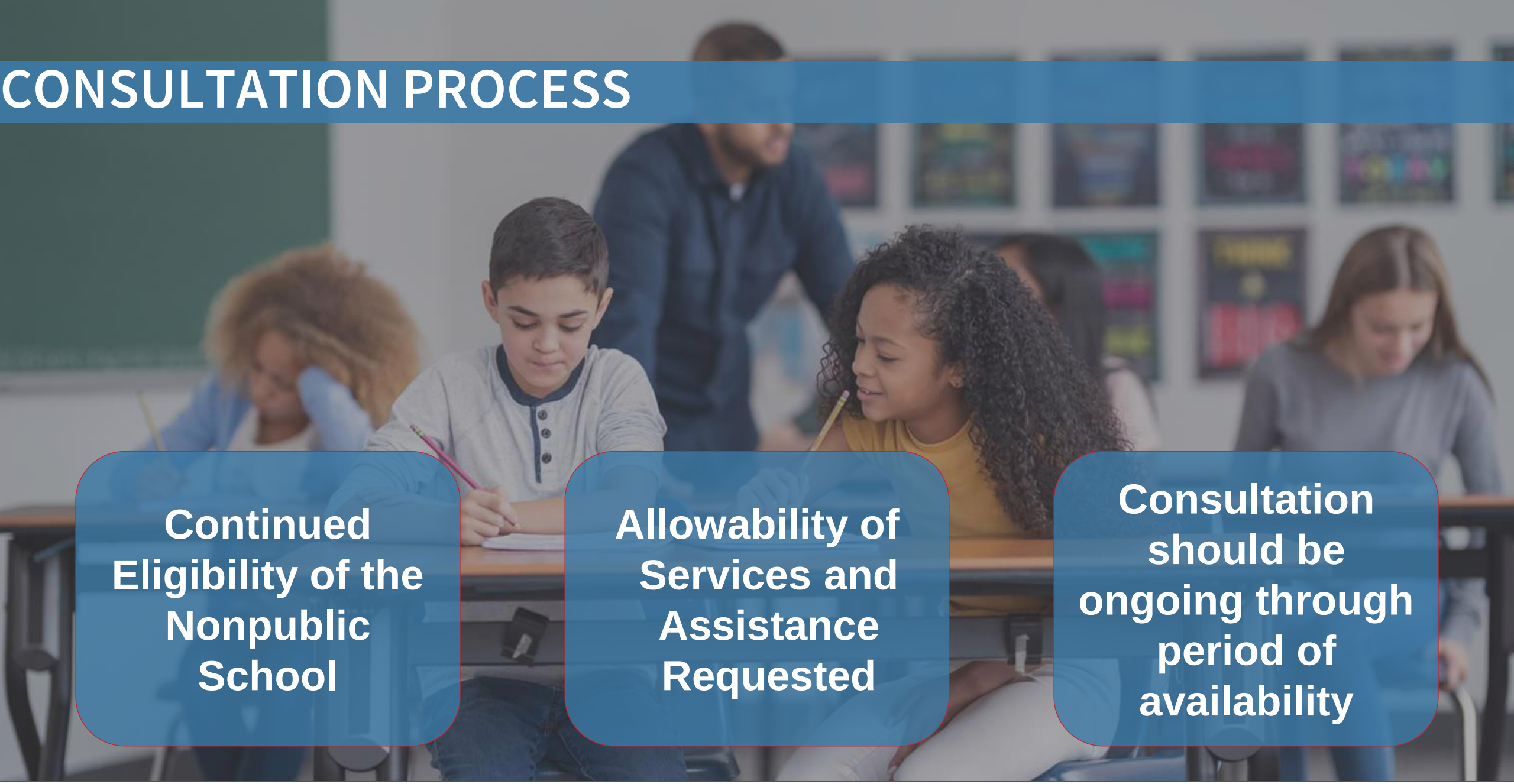
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER ROLE

- Consultation with Nonpublic Schools
- Assist the Department
- Deliver Services to Nonpublic Schools

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER ROLE

- Third Party Agreements if necessary
- Submit Invoices to ODE
- Do Not Exceed Final Service Amounts for Nonpublic Schools

CONSULTATION PROCESS



Continued Eligibility of the Nonpublic School

Allowability of Services and Assistance Requested

Consultation should be ongoing through period of availability

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER ROLE

- The Department acknowledges that ESCs may not provide all the allowable GEER II SNS services in-house and could therefore need to enter into a third-party agreement.

- Third-party agreements to provide GEER II SNS services can be allowable.

- However, it is important to note that the responsibility for ensuring that GEER II SNS services are provided still falls to the contracted ESC.

The ESC must provide GEER II SNS services and assistance equal to the GEER II SNS Final Service Amount for each nonpublic school for which it has been contracted to provide services by September 30, 2024. The services rendered must not exceed the GEER II SNS Final Service Amount for the school.

GEER II SNS ALLOWABLE CATEGORIES

This inclusive list is allowable for nonpublic schools who:

Received a PPP loan on or after December 20, 2020 and were ineligible for EANS

Received CRSSA EANS, but was not eligible for ARP EANS

GEER II SNS ALLOWABLE CATEGORIES

- Supplies to sanitize, disinfect, and clean school facilities.
- Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Improving ventilation systems, including windows or portable air purification systems.

GEER II SNS ALLOWABLE CATEGORIES

Training and PD for staff on sanitizing, 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.

GEER II SNS ALLOWABLE CATEGORIES

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.

GEER II SNS ALLOWABLE CATEGORIES

Leasing site 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.

GEER II SNS ALLOWABLE CATEGORIES

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.

GEER II SNS ALLOWABLE CATEGORIES

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.

GEER II SNS ALLOWABLE CATEGORIES

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.

GEER II SNS LITERACY NEEDS

This list is allowable for nonpublic schools who:

Received both CRSSA and ARP EANS

Have additional needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

GEER II SNS LITERACY NEEDS

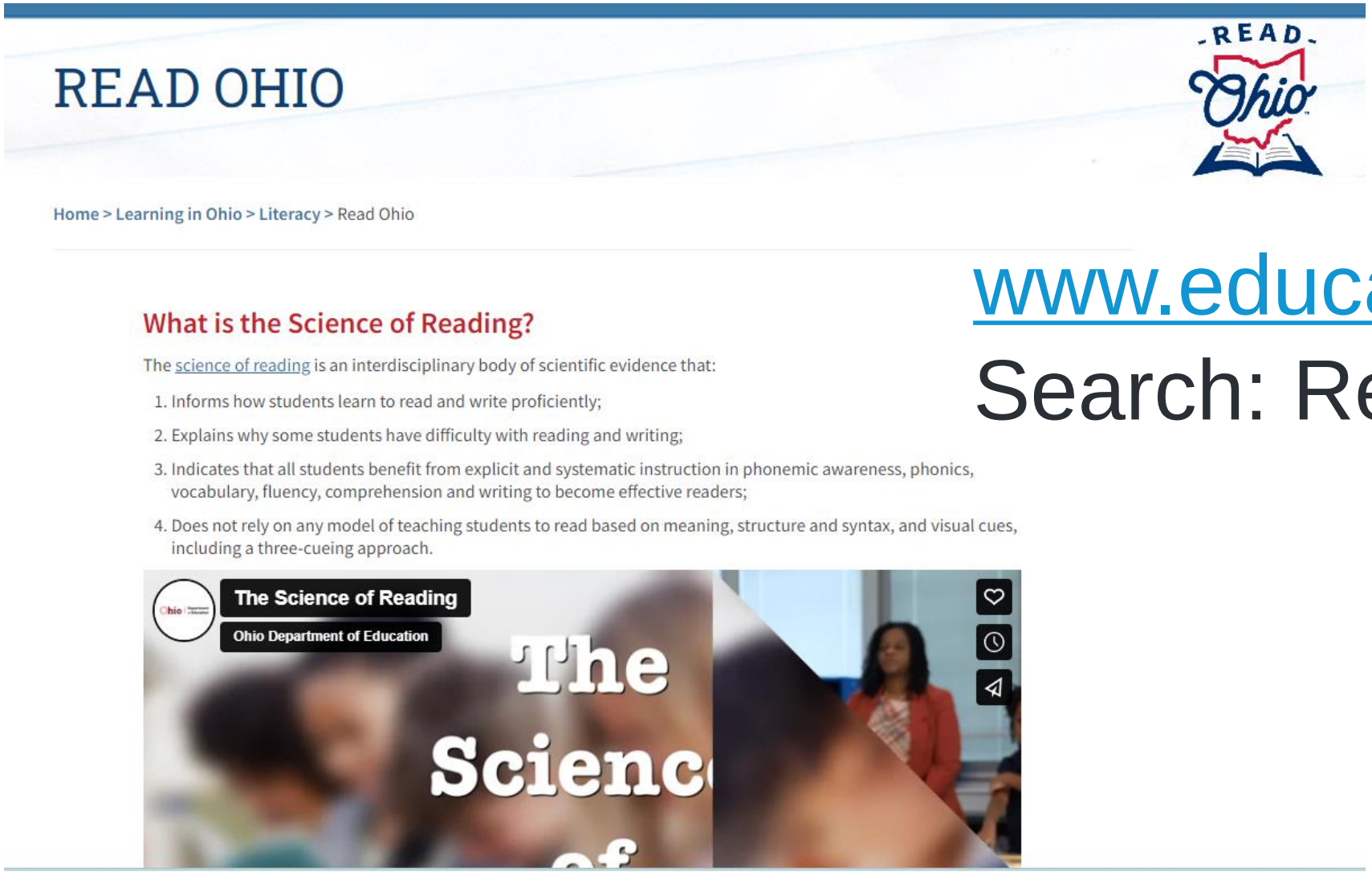


Purchasing high-quality instructional materials

Professional development

Literacy Coaches

LITERACY RESOURCES



www.education.ohio.gov

Search: Read Ohio

GEER II SNS SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

All purchases must be needed as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The purchase MUST fit an allowable category and meet ALL other requirements of the GEER II SNS program.

Items CANNOT be a permanent improvement.

- For example, playground improvements are not allowable. Same with replacing flooring (it would be considered a permanent “non-removeable” improvement).

Items such as area rugs are allowable, wall-to-wall flooring is not.

GEER II SNS GUIDELINES



Services and Assistance must be as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Purchases must fit into an allowable category



Purchase must fit all other requirements of the program.

ESC INVOICE PROCESS – SAME AS EANS PROGRAM

Submit GEER II SNS Invoice and Supporting Documentation to ODE

Submit to fiscal.management @education.ohio.gov

Send copy to EANS@education.gov inbox

Include Chante Martin chante.martin@education.ohio.gov

Reimbursements to nonpublic schools are not allowed under the program- only services rendered by the ESC

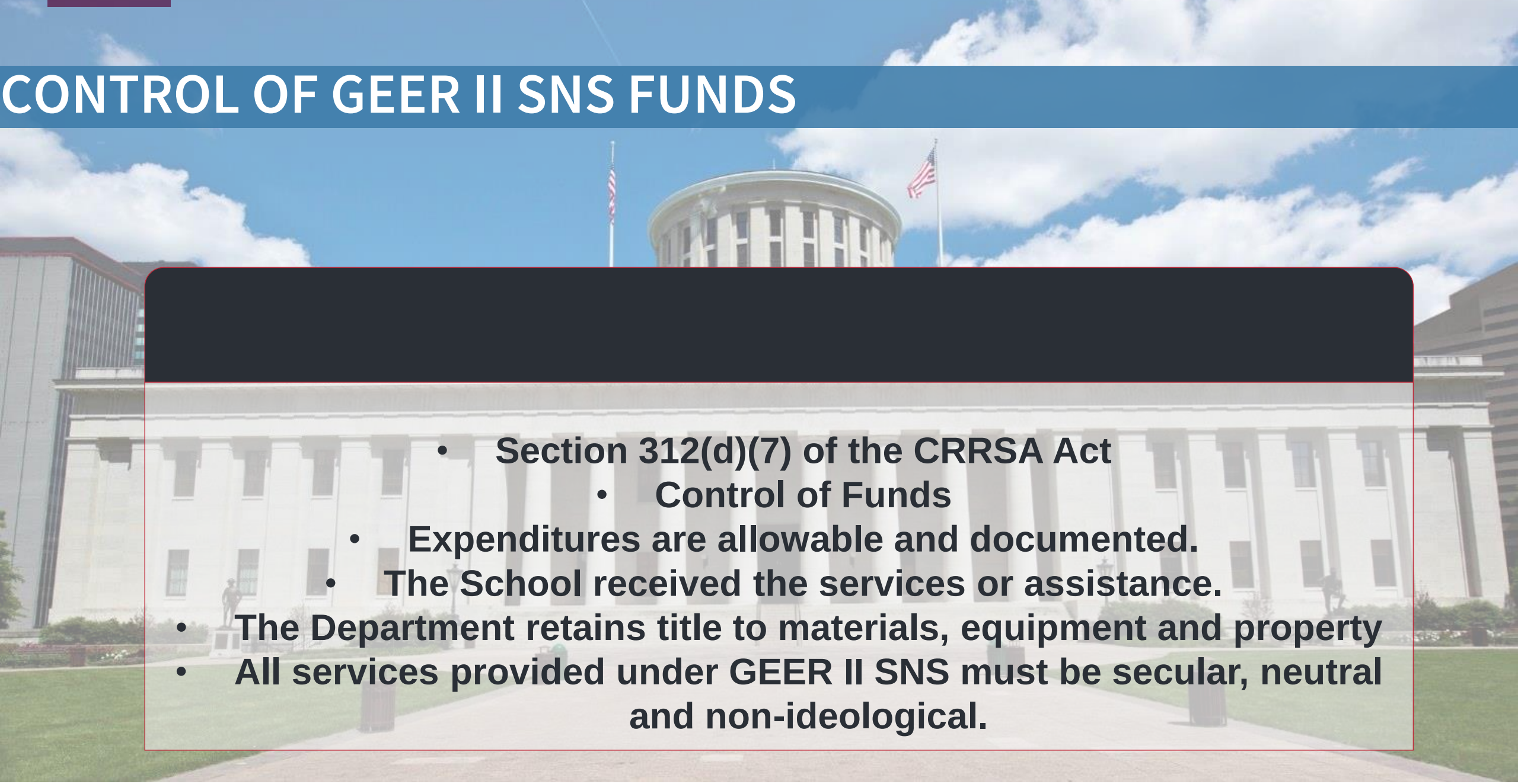
ESC INVOICE PROCESS

- Chante Martin will be the assigned Invoice Approver for all GEER II SNS invoices from the Office of Federal Programs. There are additional standard review steps that will occur within the Department fiscal system. The approval process for GEER II SNS invoices will take between 10 and 30 days.

- If an ESC has questions or needs assistance in the GEER invoice process, it may email eans@education.ohio.gov.

Nonpublic schools will not be reimbursed – all purchases must go through designated ESC.

CONTROL OF GEER II SNS FUNDS



- Section 312(d)(7) of the CRRSA Act
  - Control of Funds
    - Expenditures are allowable and documented.
    - The School received the services or assistance.
  - The Department retains title to materials, equipment and property
  - All services provided under GEER II SNS must be secular, neutral and non-ideological.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Records:** The ESC must establish and maintain for at least three years after the last day of the Performance Period its records regarding GEER II SNS, including financial reports and all other information pertaining to the ESC's performance of its obligations under the GEER II SNS contract.

- **Reporting:** The ESC must be prepared to provide the Department promptly with any records, documents, or information relating to the ESC's provision of GEER II SNS services and the GEER II SNS program.

- **Monitoring:** The Department may monitor the ESC's performance and the ESC's compliance with any and all requirements relating to the GEER II SNS program.

GEER II SNS QUESTIONS

For questions about Ohio's GEER II SNS application process, eligibility, and allowable GEER II SNS Services and Assistance, please refer to the GEER Frequently Asked Questions.

For more information about the GEER II SNS Services and Assistance process, please refer to the GEER Services and Assistance Guide.

GEER II SNS QUESTIONS

Can a nonpublic school receive GEER II SNS services if it applied for and received PPP funding?

Yes. A nonpublic school that received a PPP loan may receive services or assistance under the GEER II SNS program.

GEER II SNS QUESTIONS

May a nonpublic school receive reimbursement for COVID-19-related expenses?

No. A nonpublic school may not request reimbursement for expenses it has incurred or will incur for most allowable services or assistance.

GEER II SNS QUESTIONS

What is the earliest date that the ESC can provide GEER II SNS services?

Direct services may be rendered as of October 15, 2023. This does not preclude ESCs and nonpublic schools from planning before October 15, 2023. However, October 15, 2023, will be the starting point for when employment contracts or other direct services can be obligated and covered through invoice requests.

GEER II SNS QUESTIONS

Can IT, staffing or other specialists be “outsourced” if the ESC cannot supply and does the ESC have to work directly with the sourcing vendors and oversee their work?

Yes, the Department believes that the ESC may establish an agreement with a third-party provider. The ESC contracted to provide services to the nonpublic school determines the GEER II SNS, method, manner and process for GEER II SNS services, and is ultimately responsible for ensuring that GEER II SNS services are provided.

GEER II SNS QUESTIONS

May a nonpublic school charge expenses to GEER II SNS for teachers employed due to COVID-19?

In general, teachers employed due to COVID-19 would fall under the following allowable use category: *Initiating and maintaining education and support services or assistance for remote or hybrid learning or to address learning loss.* Under the requirements of the GEER II SNS program, this allowable use category may not be reimbursed. Therefore, if the nonpublic school has a need related to remote, hybrid learning or to address learning loss, the service must be provided by the ESC or a third-party provider. If the service is a teacher from the nonpublic school, the teacher must be employed by the ESC for GEER II SNS purposes outside of the time he or she is employed by the nonpublic school, and the nonpublic schoolteacher must be under the direct supervision of the contracted ESC with respect to all GEER II SNS activities.

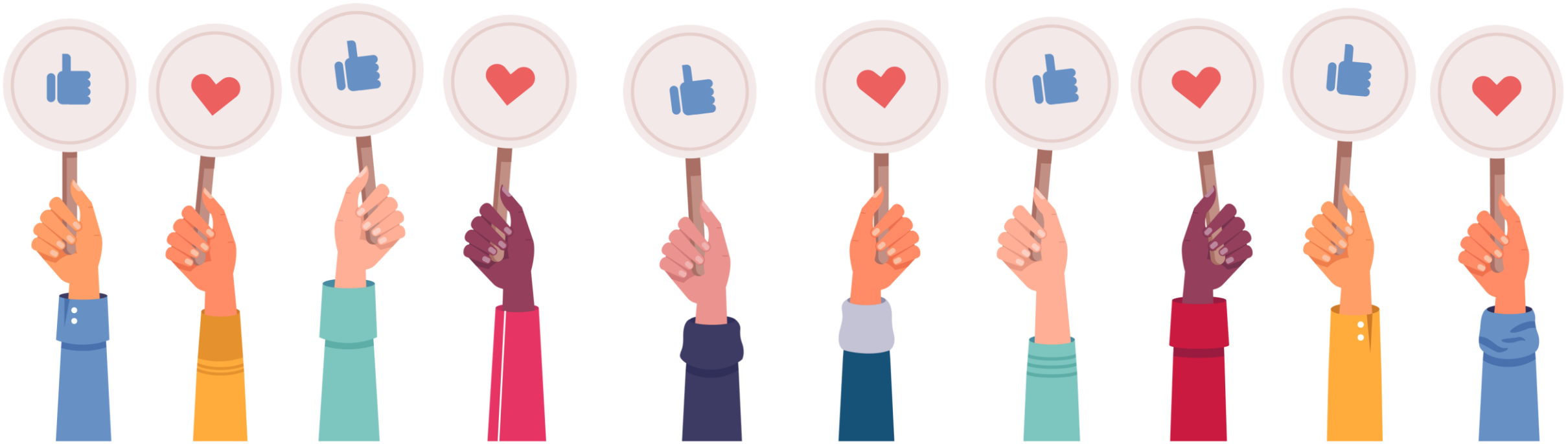
GEER II SNS QUESTIONS

Are permanent improvements to ventilation systems, such as HVAC systems or new windows, allowable under GEER?

No. See the GEER FAQ, page 3 for details. In general, temporary improvements are allowable. A portable air purification system would be allowable because an SEA could keep title and it could be removed when no longer needed without remodeling the nonpublic school facility. A ventilation system that is installed and becomes a capital improvement in a nonpublic school, however, would not meet these requirements. Similarly, new windows would not be permissible, but repairing old windows to facilitate air flow could be allowable.

According to the GEER FAQ, only the labor and installation cost for ventilation improvement projects (such as windows or portable air purifications) will be could be paid with GEER II SNS funds. NOT the cost of the equipment itself.

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QUESTIONS?

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