



March 17, 2022

To: Nebraska Non-Public School Administrators

CC: State Board of Education, Commissioner's Cabinet, and NDE Leadership

RE: Commissioner's Message: 2022 Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools

The Nebraska Department of Education will launch three new emergency assistance programs for Nebraska non-public schools through the Governor's COVID-19 emergency award of funds.

An eligible non-public school is anticipated to qualify for services and assistance under one of these three relief aid programs unless a school collectively received a loan(s) guaranteed by the Payment Protection Program (PPP) on or after December 27, 2020, that was larger than the amounts calculated under CRRSA EANS (EANS I), and ARP EANS (EANS II) combined.

1. **ARP EANS:** The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, provides awards to Governors under the [American Rescue Plan Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools \(ARP EANS\)](#) program to provide services and assistance to eligible non-public elementary and secondary schools to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on non-public school students and teachers in the State. This is the second round of emergency assistance for Nebraska non-public schools. Nebraska's approved ARP EANS award will potentially result in over 84% of low-income students enrolled in non-public schools being served through services and assistance to non-public schools with targeted higher levels of assistance to those schools that enroll a greater share of students from low-income backgrounds.
2. **GEER II Gap Assistance:** The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), provides awards to Governors under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER II) Fund, whereas the Governor has determined that it would serve the aims of the CRRSA to use \$1,000,000 of the GEER II funds to provide assistance and services to non-public schools that received a loan under the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(37) that was made on or after December 27, 2020 and experienced a funding gap due to ineligibility under the CRRSA EANS and ARP EANS programs and would have received more from combined allocations under the CRRSA EANS and ARP EANS programs than the amount the school received from the PPP participation.
3. **GEER II Supplemental Assistance:** The Office of Governor Pete Ricketts continues to hold true to its charge of serving all Nebraska schools impacted by the pandemic and further supports non-public schools through GEER II Supplemental Assistance of \$2,500,000 for non-public schools that did not participate in the PPP loan forgiveness program and (a) did not receive an ARP EANS distribution or if funds remain available (b) incurred allowable expenses during the 2021-2022 school year prior to the ARP EANS program being made available.

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. CDT

To kick off the 2022 Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools programs, the Nebraska Department of Education and FACTS Education Solutions (FACTS) will be hosting a virtual launch webinar at 1:00 p.m. CDT on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Notifications containing webinar links will be sent to school leaders and best contacts identified through the CRRSA EANS program over the new few days. A recording will be posted on the [NDE Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools webpage](#) if you are unable to attend.

Timeline for all Programs:

March 22	2022	Program Webinar: 2022 Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools Application Published
March 22-April 11	2022	Application Deadline
April 15	2022	Applications Approved Services and Assistance Distributions Published
April 18	2022	Schools Begin Budgeting Distributions Approved Budgets - Begin Requesting/Obligating Services
June 1	2022	Initial Budget Workbook Submission Deadline
August 15-September 15	2022	Amended Budget Workbook Submission Deadline Due Date for Obligation of Service and Assistance
September 30	2024	Service and Assistance Period Ends

Program Allowable Uses: Remain the same as those provided for through the [CRSSA EANS \(EANS I\) program](#). Under the ARP EANS program, reimbursement is prohibited.

Facts Education Solutions: Distribution of Services and Assistance will be provided in partnership with FACTS Education Solutions, a third party vendor, to provide: fiscal agent services and spenddown reports; technology and training to support budgeting and requesting services; and directly provide or contract for the distribution of services and assistance. FACTS Education Solutions will directly contact non-public schools, starting with the application process.

To Apply: A single application will be utilized for a school to apply for all three 2022 Emergency Assistance programs and easily accessible via FACTS resources following the webinar presentation.

Information to Have on Hand to Assist with the Application Process (Draft Application for Reference):

- Low-income data: Free and Reduced Priced Meal data will be provided within the application with the opportunity to submit additional low-income data for the school, i.e.:
 - Data from the E-Rate program of the Federal Communications Commission; or
 - Data from a different source such as scholarship or financial assistance data,
- A brief description of the assistance the school requests to address the impact of COVID-19,
- Information regarding the impact of the COVID-19 emergency on its school, and
- Whether the school received a loan guaranteed by the PPP before and/or after December 27, 2020, and if so, what amount was received.

Continue to keep key school staff abreast of information and timelines. Assess school, teacher, and student needs, priorities, and focus for underserved populations. For additional information, please reference the U.S. Department of Education's: [EANS Program Frequently Asked Questions](#) document and [the NDE EANS Services & Assistance](#) webpage.

Please reach out with inquiries to Jim Kent, Nebraska Non-public Ombudsman at Jim.Kent@nebraska.gov