



To: maaps Members
From: Mark de Chabert, COO
Date: June 16, 2020
Re: Vendors for Safety Equipment

Issues Presented

1. What is the DESE Guidance regarding safety equipment due to COVID-19?
2. What vendors will assist schools in procuring safety equipment?
3. What funds are available for reimbursement?

Brief Answers

Discussion

1. On June 5th, DESE Commissioner issued guidance about required safety supplies for reopening schools that can be viewed [here](#).

2. **maaps** has worked with 3 vendors that provide PPE and related products. Click [here](#) to see the list.

3. In March, Congress passed the CARES Act in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Contained within this legislation was an Education Stabilization Fund that provided states with \$30.75 billion to support their K-12 and higher education systems. One of the four programs under the stabilization fund is the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund, which Congress funded with approximately \$13.2 billion. The US Department of Education awarded these grants to State educational agencies for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had. These funds were awarded in the same proportion as each State received funds under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, but is not a Title I program. Massachusetts received \$214.9 million for this fund.

It is mandated in The CARES Act that districts applying for funds provide for the equitable participation in funded activities of private school students, teachers, and other educational personnel in nonprofit private schools. There have been recent challenges to the equitable participation provision, which the Federal Department of Education has refuted¹. Each district is required to submit to DESE thorough documentation of their outreach efforts.

We are trying to ascertain that districts have made a good faith effort to reach out to our member schools, as required. If you have not been contacted by your local school district, please let us know as soon as possible.

¹ Secretary DeVos Response to Carisa Moffat Miller 5.22.20: <https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/Secretary%20DeVos%20Response%20to%20Carrisa%20Moffat%20Miller%205%202022%2020.pdf>

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EXCEPTIONAL SCHOOLS
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Additionally, the state will be distributing funds a second of these funds, the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund. We are still awaiting word on how the Governor's office will be distributing this \$50.8 million fund and will update you as we get more information.