
Thomaston Board of Education
Business and Financial Report

June 2020

Submitted by Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager

Business Report

2020-2021 Board of Education Operating Budget: The Board of Finance passed the 2020-2021 budget which included a 0% increase for the Board of Education Budget on June 11th.

Cares Act and Equitable Services: Included for your review is a letter from Commissioner Cardona concerning Equitable services and the Cares Act relating to Non-Public schools being funding out of the grant.

New Egrants System: Included for your review is a memo from Kathy Dempsey about the new eGrants system. The ED111, ED141, and ED114 will now reside within the eGrants system. I will be taking part in a remote training of the new features on July 9th.

2019-2020 Budget Table without Encumbrances

The 2019-2020 Budget Table without Encumbrances shows the budget expended **91.96%**. Expenditures for June 2020 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year are **\$1,477,313.66**. Last year at this time, we were 90.89% expended

Object and Description	Original Budget	Transfers	Adjusted Appropriation	Year-to-Date (YTD) Expended	Year-to-Date Percent Expended
111 CERTIFIED PERSONNEL	\$6,741,659.00		\$6,741,659.00	\$6,016,539.80	89.24%
112 NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL	\$1,750,507.00	(1,527.65)	\$1,748,979.35	\$1,678,928.78	95.99%
200 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$2,612,788.00		\$2,612,788.00	\$2,598,963.21	99.47%
300 OTHER PROF TECH SERVICE	\$684,203.00	(2,199.00)	\$682,004.00	\$778,952.63	114.22%
400 PROPERTY SERVICE	\$666,980.00	9,941.22	\$676,921.22	\$573,580.96	84.73%
510 PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$928,584.00	(179,275.96)	\$749,308.04	\$549,652.25	73.35%
521 LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$324.00		\$324.00	\$100.00	30.86%
560 TUITION	\$484,438.00		\$484,438.00	\$408,531.38	84.33%
563 SPECIAL EDU NON PUBLIC	\$379,519.00		\$379,519.00	\$281,096.61	74.07%
590 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE	\$86,232.00		\$86,232.00	\$76,506.90	88.72%
611 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	\$180,080.00	4,609.31	\$184,689.31	\$170,088.94	92.09%
641 TEXTBOOKS	\$42,367.00	(6,309.66)	\$36,057.34	\$35,644.31	98.85%
642 LIBRARY BOOKS & PER	\$19,467.00	(1,161.76)	\$18,305.24	\$8,815.14	48.16%
690 OTHER SUPPLIES & MATER	\$170,294.00	(1,009.60)	\$169,284.40	\$160,778.52	94.98%
730 INSTRUCT EQUIPMENT	\$78,413.00		\$78,413.00	\$86,452.46	110.25%
735 TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE	\$9,940.00		\$9,940.00	\$17,696.47	178.03%
739 OTHER EQUIPMENT	\$245,472.00	177,641.60	\$423,113.60	\$462,478.19	109.30%
890 OTHER OBJECTS	\$175,859.00	(708.50)	\$175,150.50	\$125,991.99	71.93%
TOTAL:	\$15,257,126.00	\$0.00	\$15,257,126.00	\$14,030,798.54	91.96%

2019-2020 Budget Table with Encumbrances

The 2019-2020 Budget Table with Encumbrances shows the budget expended **94.86%**. Last year at this time, we were 93.79% expended.

Object and Description	Original Budget	Transfers	Adjusted Appropriation	Encumbered	Year-to-Date (YTD) Expended	Year-to-Date Percent Expended
111 CERTIFIED PERSONNEL	\$6,741,659.00		\$6,741,659.00		\$6,016,539.80	89.24%
112 NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL	\$1,750,507.00	(1,527.65)	\$1,748,979.35		\$1,678,928.78	95.99%
200 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$2,612,788.00		\$2,612,788.00		\$2,598,963.21	99.47%
300 OTHER PROF TECH SERVICE	\$684,203.00	(2,199.00)	\$682,004.00	\$31,487.45	\$778,952.63	118.83%
400 PROPERTY SERVICE	\$666,980.00	9,941.22	\$676,921.22	\$54,547.41	\$573,580.96	92.79%
510 PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$928,584.00	(179,275.96)	\$749,308.04	\$77,295.61	\$549,652.25	83.67%
521 LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$324.00		\$324.00		\$100.00	30.86%
560 TUITION	\$484,438.00		\$484,438.00	\$12,929.30	\$408,531.38	87.00%
563 SPECIAL EDU NON PUBLIC	\$379,519.00		\$379,519.00	\$73,380.08	\$281,096.61	93.40%
590 OTHER PURCHASED SERVICE	\$86,232.00		\$86,232.00	\$380.00	\$76,506.90	89.16%
611 INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES	\$180,080.00	4,609.31	\$184,689.31	\$5,508.41	\$170,088.94	95.08%
641 TEXTBOOKS	\$42,367.00	(6,309.66)	\$36,057.34	2,025.20	\$35,644.31	104.47%
642 LIBRARY BOOKS & PER	\$19,467.00	(1,161.76)	\$18,305.24	284.00	\$8,815.14	49.71%
690 OTHER SUPPLIES & MATER	\$170,294.00	(1,009.60)	\$169,284.40	\$40,052.02	\$160,778.52	118.63%
730 INSTRUCT EQUIPMENT	\$78,413.00		\$78,413.00	\$111,838.00	\$86,452.46	252.88%
735 TECHNOLOGY SOFTWARE	\$9,940.00		\$9,940.00	0.00	\$17,696.47	178.03%
739 OTHER EQUIPMENT	\$245,472.00	177,641.60	\$423,113.60	\$28,511.20	\$462,478.19	116.04%
890 OTHER OBJECTS	\$175,859.00	(708.50)	\$175,150.50	\$3,703.71	\$125,991.99	74.05%
TOTAL:	\$15,257,126.00	\$0.00	\$15,257,126.00	\$441,942.39	\$14,030,798.54	94.86%

2019-2021 Grant Report

All grant funds on record are shown below. The table below shows all available grant appropriations and expenditures.

Grant Fiscal Year End	Grant Name/Description	Original Budget	Transfers	Adjusted Appropriation	Year-to-Date Expended	Percent Expended
20-Jun	Competitive School Readiness	\$3,881.00	\$0.00	\$3,881.00	\$3,881.00	100.00%
20-Jun	School Readiness	\$175,203.00	\$0.00	\$175,203.00	\$175,203.00	100.00%
20-Jun	Title I	\$3,380.81	\$0.00	\$3,380.81	\$3,380.81	100.00%
20-Jun	Title IIA	\$19,179.00	\$0.00	\$19,179.00	\$19,179.00	100.00%
20-Jun	IDEA Section 611	\$19,095.30	\$0.00	\$19,095.30	\$19,095.30	100.00%
20-Jun	Smart Start Operations	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	100.00%
SUBTOTAL		\$295,739.11	\$0.00	\$295,739.11	\$295,739.11	100.00%
21-Jun	IDEA Section 611	\$233,274.00	\$0.00	\$233,274.00	\$208,215.00	89.26%
21-Jun	IDEA Section 619	\$18,711.00	\$0.00	\$18,711.00	\$16,839.00	90.00%
21-Jun	Title I	\$82,161.00	\$0.00	\$82,161.00	\$69,761.00	84.91%
21-Jun	Title IIA	\$19,364.00	\$0.00	\$19,364.00		0.00%
SUBTOTAL		\$353,510.00	\$0.00	\$353,510.00	\$294,815.00	83.40%
GRAND TOTAL		\$649,249.11	\$0.00	\$649,249.11	\$590,554.11	90.96%

Unlike the comparison that can be made between the percent, expended and the percent completed of the fiscal year, the percent expended for grants cannot be compared as simply because some of these grant funds were available in the 2019-2020 fiscal year and some will be available through the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

2019-2020 Projection

The 2019-2020 budget projection shows the budget projection of a \$290,639 surplus. The Salary line items are running a surplus because of the school shutdown, which reduced athletic coaches and extracurricular stipend payments. The Employee Benefits line item is running a surplus because of less people on insurance than anticipated and a lower required pension contribution. The deficit in the Other Professional Services line is because of the new Human Resources Specialist contract with EdAdvance and the cost of a Clinician for the TLC program that will be paid to Effective School Solutions; this is offset by lower than anticipated substitute teacher costs because of the shutdown. Pupil Transportation is showing a surplus because of our ability to share costs using our transportation consortium and reduced costs because of the shutdown. The Equipment and Capital line item is showing a deficit because of the cost of a new accounting software package to replace our current system that was required due to the unanticipated obsolescence of the district's current accounting software. In addition, there was a need to purchase Chromebooks because of distance learning and 54 webcams for classrooms.

Object	Description	Adopted Budget	Transfers	Expended to Date	Encumbered	Balance	Projection	Projected Year End Balance
111	Certified Personnel Wages	\$ 6,741,659		\$ 6,016,540		\$ 725,119	\$ 507,745	217,374
112	Non-Certified Personnel Wages	1,750,507	(1,527)	1,678,929	-	\$ 70,051	\$ -	70,051
	Subtotal Wages	\$ 8,492,166	\$ (1,527)	\$ 7,695,469	\$ -	\$ 795,170	\$ 507,745	\$ 287,425
200	Employee Benefits	2,612,788		2,598,963		13,825	\$ -	13,825
	Subtotal Personnel Expense	\$ 11,104,954	\$ (1,527)	\$ 10,294,432	\$ -	\$ 808,995	\$ 507,745	\$ 301,250
300	Other Prof Technical Services	\$ 684,203	\$ (2,199)	\$ 778,953	\$ 31,488	(128,437)	\$ 6,000	(134,437)
400	Property Services	666,980	9,941	573,581	54,548	48,792	\$ 20,000	28,792
510	Pupil Transportation	928,584	(179,276)	549,652	37,295	162,361	\$ -	162,361
560	Tuition	484,438		408,531	12,929	62,978	\$ -	62,978
563	Special Ed Non Public Tuition	379,519		281,097	73,380	25,042	\$ -	25,042
5XX	Other Purchased Services	86,556		76,607	380	9,569		9,569
6XX	Supplies	412,208	(3,873)	375,328	47,869	(14,862)	\$ -	(14,862)
7XX	Equipment & Capital	333,825	177,642	566,827	140,349	(195,509)		(195,509)
8XX	Dues & Fees & Other Objects	175,859	(708)	125,992	3,704	45,455	\$ -	45,455
	Subtotal Non-Personnel Expense	\$ 4,152,172	\$ 1,527	\$ 3,736,368	\$ 401,942	\$ 15,389	\$ 26,000	\$ (10,611)
TOTAL FY2020		\$ 15,257,126	\$ -	\$ 14,030,800	\$ 401,942	\$ 824,384	\$ 533,745	\$ 290,639

2019-2020 Transfers

Policy 3160 (Business/Non-Instructional Operations-Transfers of Funds Between Categories) states, "The Superintendent, or their designee, may transfer any unexpended or not contracted portion of any appropriation for school purposes to any other line item of such itemized estimate up to a limit of \$5,000 for any one occurrence."

June Transfers: There are no transfer Requests for June



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



July 8, 2020

Dear Superintendents,

I am writing to update you on the calculation of the “equitable services” set-aside for nonpublic schools under the CARES Act, Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief (ESSER) fund. In a communication from the Connecticut State Department of Education (the department) on June 8, 2020, districts were notified of a national dispute in how the “equitable services” provision of the ESSER fund was to be implemented. Guidance released by Secretary DeVos and the United States Education Department (USED) on April 30, 2020 significantly broadened how “equitable services” are shared as compared to what is required under Title I.

As you know initially, the department, with support of the Office of the Governor, the Office of Policy and Management, and the Office of the Attorney General, determined that it was appropriate to enact the plain language of the CARES Act. The ESSER application local educational agencies (LEAs) received on June 19, 2020 used this calculation methodology, and also provided each district with an estimate of what their “equitable services” calculation would be under the USED guidance for informational purposes.

Since that time, Secretary DeVos pursued an expedited Interim Final Rule (IFR), which is considered a final rule that is legally enforceable unless overturned by litigation. This rule was published July 1, 2020 and became effective immediately. This new rule details how LEAs must calculate the “equitable services” set-aside from their ESSER funds to provide services to students and teachers in nonpublic schools. The IFR differs not only from our original ESSER application, but also from USED’s initial guidance.

To determine the proportional share of ESSER funds an LEA reserves to provide “equitable services”, the LEA has two options:

Option 1: If the LEA wants to be able to spend its ESSER funds on both its Title I and non-Title I public schools, it must calculate the “equitable services” proportional share based on total enrollment in the elementary and secondary non-public schools in the LEA that choose to participate in the ESSER Fund programs compared to the total enrollment in the public elementary and secondary schools in the LEA.

Option 2: If the LEA wants to limit spending of its ESSER funds only on students and teachers in its Title I public schools, the LEA may base the “equitable services” proportional share calculation on poverty to determine its set-aside for non-public schools by:

- a. using the proportional share it used under Title I in the 2019-2020 school year or;*
- b. using the count of students from low-income families in non-public schools that will participate in the ESSER Funds programs compared to the total number of students from low-income families in Title I schools and participating non-public elementary and secondary schools in the LEA.*

"Equitable Services" Set-aside for Nonpublic Schools

July 8, 2020

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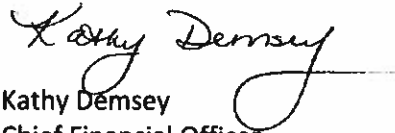
Option 1 of the IFR distributes more of a district's ESSER funding to the provision of "equitable services" for nonpublic schools residing within the boundaries of the district, but allows LEAs to spend ESSER funds on behalf of all of their public schools. Option 2 limits the amount of ESSER funds required to be set-aside for "equitable services" for nonpublic schools residing within the boundaries of the district, but also limits districts to spending ESSER funds only on their Title I designated public schools. Option 2 also requires the LEA to ensure it does not violate the supplement not supplant requirement in section 1118 (b) (2).

Of note, the IFR provides for the above options related to the *calculation* of funding, however, it does not make the same distinction related to those eligible for equitable services. To the contrary, it states that ***"the LEA still has the obligation to afford students and teachers in any non-public school in the LEA the opportunity to receive CARES Act services."*** Therefore, no matter which calculation method is used, all nonpublic schools in a district may benefit from CARES Act ESSER Fund services.

The department will be modifying the online ESSER grant application to reflect the new requirements of the IFR. Districts will be notified as soon as the changes have been made. If districts have already submitted their application, they will need to recalculate the "equitable services" portion and resubmit their application to the department for final approval.

If you have any further questions regarding this change, please call me at 203-206-4885.

Sincerely,


Kathy Demsey
Chief Financial Officer

KD

cc: School Business Officials



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools
School Business Officials

FROM: Kathy Demsey *Kathy Demsey*
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: June 10, 2020

SUBJECT: New eGrants System

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is replacing the existing Prepayment Grant system (PPG) with the eGrants/eGMS system that districts currently use for their federal grant funds. This change will be implemented at the beginning of the new state fiscal year (SFY), July 1, 2020. We understand that this is a short timeframe to get the new system implemented, but the age of the PPG system and required enhancements has precipitated this transition.

Most of you are already familiar with the eGMS system. For those who are not, the system is entirely web-based and eGMS automates the entire grant lifecycle. All grant applications feature a consistent interface, which greatly simplifies training. The application process includes budgeting, program activities, and document upload. The system allows grantees to initiate and complete budget revisions. Changes are tracked between revisions so that reviewers can quickly approve or reject budget amendments, greatly improving efficiency.

The system is currently being used to enter the federal Consolidated Grants and several state grants. Starting July 1, 2020, all budgets and budget modifications will be entered into the eGMS system. Any multiyear budget currently NOT on eGMS will be transferred over from PPG.

Remote training sessions will be provided in early July 2020 and conducted by the application developer, HMB Net. Tentative dates are July 8-9 and July 15-16. Details will be provided at a later date. In addition to remote training, subject specific instructional videos will be made available, as well as a technical support.

The Budget (ED114), Cash Drawdown (ED111), and the Closeout (ED141) processes will now reside within eGMS and will be new to all grantees but will be similar to the previous system with the following enhancements:

1. Grantees can still request funds based on an estimate; however, will be required to report quarterly actual expenditures to date.
2. For now, grantees will still be limited to monthly funds requests. As we all get familiar with the new system, we will consider increasing the frequency of cash requests during the month if there is a need for this.
3. Final expenditures for 2019-2020 will continue to be reported in the old PPG system.
4. Final expenditures for 2020-2021 will be reported in eGMS. This will first be used beginning in July 2021.

Anticipated Timeline:

1. June 7 PPG system closed for all budget revisions. (ED141 system will remain open to collect expenditure data.)
2. June 15 Final payment cycle for SFY 2019-2020.
3. June 18-July 5 HMB performs budget conversion and gets eGMS system ready for SFY 2020-2021.
4. July 6 eGMS system opens.
5. July 8-16 Four, half-day remote training sessions for LEAs. Specific subject videos will be made available providing detailed instructions (timeline to be determined).
6. July 20 eGMS payments go out.

Finally, please be aware that the anticipated timeline is based on the information we have at this time. Any material changes will be conveyed to you as soon as we become aware.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Roger Persson, Chief of Fiscal/Administrative Services, at roger.persson@ct.gov.

Thank you.

KD:rp