



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

[Address]

Dear [Salutation]:

I am pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Education (Department) is accepting applications from State educational agencies (SEAs) for initial funding under the Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations (Restart) program as authorized by the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018*, P.L. 115-123 (February 9, 2018). The purpose of this program is to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) and non-public schools with expenses related to the restart of elementary schools and secondary schools in areas where a major disaster or emergency was declared under sections 401 and 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 and 5190) related to the consequences of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and/or Maria or the California wildfires in 2017 (“a covered disaster or emergency”).

Congress appropriated a combined total of approximately \$2.5 billion for two separate programs: (1) the Restart program; and (2) the Temporary Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students (Emergency Impact Aid) program. The application enclosed with this letter is for Restart only. The application for Emergency Impact Aid will be made available in the near future. The Department will determine the amount to allocate to the respective programs based on information provided by SEAs in applications for the Restart and Emergency Impact Aid programs.

We know that SEAs, LEAs and non-public schools have incurred, and continue to incur, considerable expenses in reopening and resuming full operations. We recognize, as well, urgent need for financial assistance. Therefore, we will make initial allocations under the Restart program as soon as possible. At a later date, the Department will provide further Restart funding opportunities for those SEAs that demonstrate a need for additional financial assistance.

In the enclosed initial application for Restart funds, eligible SEAs will provide (1) data on the number of public and non-public schools and students affected by a covered disaster or emergency; (2) a preliminary Restart plan that provides a brief description of how the State will use the funds to support services or provide assistance with the Restart funds to eligible LEAs and non-public schools and ensure accountability for the use of funds; and (3) required assurances. The Department will consider this information in determining initial funding amounts under this program.

Please note that under the *Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018*, these funds must be used to serve both LEAs (including charter school LEAs) and non-public schools directly or

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access

through subgrants to LEAs. In general, Restart funds may be used for activities that help the eligible LEA or non-public school reopen and restore normal operations. Authorized Restart program activities are the following: recovery of student and personnel data; replacement of school district information systems, including hardware and software; financial operations; reasonable transportation costs; rental of mobile educational units and leasing of neutral sites or spaces; initial replacement of instructional materials and equipment, including textbooks; redeveloping instructional plans, including curriculum development; and initiating and maintaining education and support services, and such other activities related to the purpose of the Restart program that are approved by the Department.

Please note, however, that Restart funds may be used only to supplement, not supplant, any funds made available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency or through a State. In addition, funds received under Restart may not be used for construction or major renovation of schools. The Department will provide further guidance and technical assistance in the near future. (For your convenience, Enclosures 1 and 2 to the application contain the provisions of the relevant laws governing the Restart program.)

Please submit your application package to K12.Restart@ed.gov by March 30, 2018. Please direct any questions or concerns to Madeline Sullivan at (202) 453-6705 or by e-mail at K12.Restart@ed.gov.

We look forward to working with you as you continue your efforts to restore the learning environment in your schools.

Sincerely,

Jason Botel
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Delegated the Authority to Perform the Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education

Enclosures