



# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

**SEP 16 2019**

Dear Chief State School Officer:

I am pleased to announce that applications are available for the 2019 Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations (2019 Restart) and 2019 Temporary Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students (2019 Emergency Impact Aid) programs as authorized by the *Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019*, Pub. Law 116-20 (enacted June 6, 2019). These programs provide \$165 million in assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and non-public schools impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Mangkhut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and wildfires, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions occurring in calendar year 2018 and tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019 in those areas for which a major disaster or emergency is declared under section 401 or 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act.

## **2019 Restart**

In the enclosed 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 description of the impact of the covered disaster or emergency on each affected LEA and non-public school and their needs; (3) estimated or actual costs of meeting the recovery needs; (4) the proposed use of funds; and (5) required assurances.

Please note that under the *Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act of 2019*, Restart funds must be used to serve both LEAs (including charter school LEAs) and non-public schools directly or 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 include 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 U.S. Department of Education (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.

## **2019 Emergency Impact Aid**

Under the 2019 Emergency Impact Aid program, the Department will award grants to eligible SEAs on the basis of quarterly counts of displaced students. SEAs will then provide payments to eligible LEAs to assist with the cost of educating students who were displaced by a covered

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disaster or emergency during the 2018-19 school year and who were enrolled in public schools, including charter schools, and non-public schools. States apply for grants based on data that they collect from LEAs and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) funded schools that have provided educational services for displaced students. The LEAs and BIE schools must submit applications to SEAs. The parents of non-public school displaced students are to submit applications to the LEAs. We have created sample templates that SEAs may adapt for applications from LEAs, BIE schools, and non-public school parents, as well as a model certification from non-public schools to attest to the enrollment of the students whose parents submitted applications to the LEAs.

In their initial 2019 Emergency Impact Aid applications, SEAs will submit enrollment data for all four quarters of the 2018-19 school year. The Department has identified, in the Federal Register Notice of Availability of Funds, four suggested quarterly count dates for identifying numbers of eligible displaced students: October 1, 2018; December 1, 2018; February 1, 2019; and April 1, 2019. States may use these dates or select count dates that fall within a 21-day range for each of the quarters (i.e., within 10 calendar days before or after these dates). SEAs will subsequently provide any updated enrollment data for the 2018-19 school year by January 31, 2020.

### **Additional Information**

Further guidance and technical assistance for applicants will be provided during a webinar offered September 25, 2019 and repeated on September 26, 2019. More information and formal invitations to follow.

This letter, and the enclosed materials, provide the information necessary for State educational agencies (SEAs) to apply for funding, and SEAs will make awards to LEAs and non-public schools under these programs. The Department will consider SEA application information in determining funding amounts for these programs.

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

Sincerely,

/s/

Frank T. Brogan  
Assistant Secretary  
for Elementary and Secondary Education

Enclosures