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EANS Funding for COVID Relief

In late December 2020, Congress approved a COVID relief bill that includes more than \$54 billion for K-12 education. Estimates indicate that Ohio will receive approximately \$1.9 billion in aid. Like CARES Act funding, the aid will be distributed to charter schools and districts using the Title I formula. States must distribute at least 90% of these funds to local education agencies (LEAs). Private schools access resources through equitable services. A majority of governors' discretionary funding totaling 4 billion dollars is earmarked for aid to private schools.

Allowable use of these funds is like CARES Act funding. Approved uses include:

- Addressing the specific needs of disadvantaged students, including those living in poverty, English learners, homeless students, students with disabilities, and students in foster care
- Cleaning/sanitizing schools and use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Purchase of PPE and the supplies needed to clean/sanitize facilities and disinfect schools.
- Hardware and software needed to facilitate remote and hybrid learning.
- Mental health support services
- Afterschool and summer learning programs

Nonpublic schools can choose the service provider with whom they prefer to work. At the request of the Department of Education, educational service centers (ESC) are serving as fiscal agents for these funds.

Applications were due to the Department of Education on March 22. Funds will be released once the General Assembly appropriates the funding. SB 111 includes the appropriation and has already passed the Ohio Senate. We hope that the EANS funds are released soon.

If you have a question regarding these funds, please contact Ann Riddle at ariddle@scoho.org.