



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MOLLY M. SPEARMAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
School Business Officials

FROM: Molly M. Spearman
State Superintendent of Education

DATE: October 19, 2020

RE: Coronavirus Relief Funds and Internet Hotspots/Services

The purpose of this memo is to provide districts with information related to the continuation of internet hotspots and services, as well as to share new guidance provided to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) on the distribution of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to districts.

Internet Hotspots and Services

Using the requirements and guidelines as provided in a July 27, 2020, [memo](#) sent to districts from the SCDE and the Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) between the Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) and the SCDE, all current internet hotspots and services will be continued at no additional cost to the districts until June 30, 2021. All services currently being provided by ORS through December 2020 will be transferred to the SCDE for continuation of the program.

Additional information on the continuation of these services is forthcoming.

Coronavirus Relief Funds

Based on new guidance provided to the SCDE, districts will be receiving a direct allocation from the remaining CRF allocated to the SCDE.

The direct allocation will be in lieu of being reimbursed for those requests submitted through the surveys with due dates of October 9th related to CRF spending directive four (tutors, interventionists, supplemental services, etc.), October 14th related to Personal Protective

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Equipment (PPE) purchased by districts outside of any SCDE order placed, and October 16th related to technology. All PPE and Plexiglas orders placed with and through the SCDE are in addition to the direct allocation districts will receive.

By receiving a direct allocation, rather than a reimbursement, this allows districts to utilize the funding in the below four areas until September 30, 2021:

- (1) School safety measures taken in response to COVID-19 including, but not limited to, purchasing masks, gloves, wipes, hand sanitizer, face shields, cleaning solution, Plexiglas, and other cleaning equipment and supplies.
- (2) Hire or contract for school nurse services for those schools that do not have a full-time school nurse.
- (3) Tutoring, supplemental services, and support services to include services for unengaged students, interventionists, and after school learning extensions that prioritize face-to-face instruction focused on students with identified reading or math difficulties and students with IEPs to address deficits resulting from COVID-19.
- (4) Technology purchases of devices and connectivity equipment to support online learning resulting from COVID-19.

The new deadline of September 30, 2021, to expend funding means the previous mentioned date of December 31, 2020, no longer applies.

Specific district allocation notifications will be sent to each district following this memo. Each district superintendent will need to sign the allocation notification and return to the SCDE by Wednesday, October 28, 2020. Please note funding will not be dispersed until the district has returned the signed notification.

Because the deadline on expending these funds has been extended to September 30, 2021, districts will be required to submit quarterly reports on expenditures. Detailed information on the specifics of reporting requirements is forthcoming.

If you have any questions, please contact Katie Nilges at knilges@ed.sc.gov.