Frequently Asked Questions

Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools II (EANS II) Program

as authorized by the

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

The United States Department of Education (USDE) has published their own extensive list of FAQs related to the EANS program. Click here for the USDE's FAQ document.

1. **Question**: Will nonpublic schools have to find vendors and get quotes for goods and services?
   Answer: No; the MSDE will take on the task of procuring the service and/or assistance from state-approved vendors and contractors. The MSDE will need to seek approval of all contracts by the Board of Public Works, which is why we have the turn-around time that we do. We will need to aggregate all requests, align those requests with vendors and scopes of work, and then bring those competitively-procured contracts to the Board of Public Works for approval and award.

2. **Question**: Why do we have to provide low-income student enrollment?
   Answer: The ARP EANS II program specifically targets nonpublic schools that serve low-income students. Eligible nonpublic schools must demonstrate student enrollment of at least 20% of students who come from low-income families are eligible to receive an award.

3. **Question**: What does "low-income" mean?
   Answer: A student must be aged 5 through 17 from a family whose income does not exceed 185% of the 2020 Federal poverty threshold ($48,470 for a family of four).

4. **Question**: What documentation can we provide to demonstrate that 20% of students come from low-income families?
   Answer: Nonpublic schools may use Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) data, any data on scholarship eligibility if your school offers it, any data your school collects regarding financial aid, or submit a statement on school letterhead regarding the data source and calculations for this requirement. Do not submit individual student names.

5. **Question**: My school opened in May 2021. Am I eligible for an award?
   Answer: Only nonpublic schools that have been operating since and open prior to March 13, 2020 (the date the President declared a national emergency) are eligible for an award.

6. **Question**: Can we request reimbursement of items we've already purchased?
   Answer: No; there are no reimbursements during this round of funding.

7. **Question**: What does the word "award" mean exactly?
   Answer: We are not awarding participation for funding as part of the EANS II program. MSDE will directly pay for services and assistance and MSDE retains ownership of items reimbursed through the EANS program. An EANS "award" constitutes participation in the EANS program, based on MSDE's review of applicants and eligibility.

8. **Question**: What will happen if the full allocation of ARP EANS II funding is not utilized by eligible schools at this time? Will the remaining funds be made available to nonpublic schools?
   Answer: Any unused funds will revert back to the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund. There will not be an additional round of funding.

9. **Question**: Are instructional services limited to specific vendors?
   Answer: Yes, vendors are limited to those that are approved through a statewide purchasing consortium.

10. **Question**: Can high schools participate?
    Answer: Yes, nonpublic high schools that meet the state definition of secondary education may participate in the program.

11. **Question**: Can you give a dollar value of how much schools should be requesting?
    Answer: No, we cannot provide or recommend a suggested allotment of funding per nonpublic school. Complete the procurement request spreadsheet and upload it to the online application. On this spreadsheet, indicate whether each line is high, medium, or low priority. In the case that the total of funding requests received exceeds the total EANS II funds available, the MSDE will prioritize funding for high-priority requests first.

12. **Question**: I am completing the online application, but when I enter in my school's address, I am getting an error message that says "You must answer this question". What am I doing wrong?
    Answer: For this question, schools must write something for the address 2 line. Schools may write the suite number, if that applies to you. If not, we suggest schools write "n/a" if there is no suite number.

13. **Question**: Our nonpublic school serves students with disabilities who are over the age of 18. Can we count those students toward our low-income enrollment?
    Answer: As per the Interim Final Requirements, *to be counted as a student from a low-income family for purposes of these requirements, a student must be aged 5 through 17 from a family whose income does not exceed 185 percent of the 2020 Federal poverty level*. Therefore, students from low-income families who are over the age of 17 may not be counted towards the non-public school's enrollment of low-income students for purposes of the ARP EANS eligibility determinations. However, all students enrolled in a non-public school that qualifies for ARP EANS may benefit from the services and assistance provided under that program.

14. **Question**: If my school has received other federal funding (PPP loans for example), is my school eligible for EANS funding?
    Answer: Yes.

15. **Question**: Can someone be the custodian of multiple schools or reuse an email on multiple applications?
    Answer: Yes.

16. **Question**: Will applicants receive copies of our application after completion?
    Answer: No. If you'd like to keep a record of your application, it is recommended that you maintain records of the documents that were uploaded.

17. **Question**: Will grantees receive an award letter detailing what is being procured?
    Answer: Yes.

18. **Question**: Will installation costs be covered?
    Answer: Items procured through this program will not require installation.

19. **Question**: Has been application been received?
    Answer: There is an updated list of all received applications under "ARP EANS II Resources" on our Maryland EANS webpage.

This page will be updated with frequently asked questions and answers on a continual basis.
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