



State-Level Strategy for CARES Act Set-aside

May 22, 2020

The department will be responsible for stewarding almost \$26M in CARES Act funding to support our state education system. Those funds are designed to be used for state activities, and the department has elected to allocate those resources towards initiatives and programs that will sustainably support districts with distance learning and continuous, high quality instruction. With that, the department also recognizes how important it is for districts to know what they can expect from the state related to funding and assistance. This document is intended to provide some clarity on what services and supports the department intends to provide for districts through CARES Act funding.

- Technology (\$13M)
 - Competitive grants to districts to support district-wide 1:1 technology for students
 - Funds to support ongoing statewide technology solutions (including concierge supports, systems and digital classroom set-up, statewide licensing, etc.)
- Online Resource (\$4M)
 - Online tool with yearlong sets of videos, instructional materials, and supports for ELA and math (to start)
- Grow Your Own (\$2M).
 - Grants to support building out local pipelines to replace potential increases in teacher retirements and vacancies.
- Mental Health and Community Resources (\$1.5M)
 - Development of online tool that maps community resources available to support mental health and related services for students. Additional resources to be included on the tool to support educators.
- Leadership Development (\$0.5M)
 - Digital badging and online professional development for educators to address identified needs.
- District Accelerator (\$1M)
 - Money to help close financial gaps for districts looking to make strategic, districtwide investments in one of three priority areas: 1:1 technology, student remediation and/or high-quality online learning options.
- Innovation (\$3M)
 - Grant to a small number of districts looking to scale innovative strategies that benefit students.

The department is developing a calendar with expected release dates for all of the resources. This will be provided to superintendents as information becomes available.

Highlights of Additional District Resources

The department is also providing additional resources to support districts, through previously scheduled initiatives and/or internal capacity. These include:

- Foundational Skills Curriculum: a free, open-sourced set of materials developed with Tennessee teachers to provide online resources and cost savings for districts.
- High Quality Instructional Materials Grant: Grant funding to support districts with the cost of purchasing instructional materials aligned with the ELA adoption.
- Assessment Resources: Free interim and formative assessments, an assessment bank, and the beginning of short-forms to support instructional materials; will also include advanced reporting supports.
- Free Professional Development: Partnership with UTK for free principal PD and Trevecca for free teacher PD related to distance education.
- Special Education Grants: A series of four grants to be announced throughout May and June, beginning with the Assistive technology grant.