

MINUTES



Commissioner's Task Force on ESSER II and EANS Distribution of Money
Friday, April 2nd

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Porter called the weekly meeting of the Commissioner's Task Force to order at 3:00p.m. on Friday, April 2nd, 2021.

The meeting was conducted via video conference and was live streamed for the public to observe and listen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bert Lewis made a motion to approve the agenda with flexibility for the April 2nd meeting, and Melissa Rooker had seconded it. (18-0). Simeon Russell was not present during the meeting to vote on the motion.

ATTENDANCE:

The following Task Force members attended by video conference: Simeon Russell was not in attendance.

Jim Porter	Frank Harwood
Janet Waugh	Tracy Callard
Brenda Dietrich	Jason Winbolt
Pat Pettey	Melissa Rooker
Adam Thomas	Brad Bergsma
Lisa Peters	Mike Argabright
Janet Eaton	Nick Compagnone
Jamie Rumford	Alicia Thompson
Adam Proffitt	Roberta Lewis

APPROVAL OF MARCH 26th MINUTES

Jamie Rumford made a motion to approve of the March 26th minutes, and Melissa Rooker had seconded it (18-0). Simeon Russell was not present during the meeting to vote on the motion.

OVERVIEW OF EANS APPLICATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE – Tate Toedman

At this time, the live stream was experiencing technical difficulties, so there will not be exact time stamps associated with this section, as it was not recorded.

Tate Toedman discussed the number of EANS applications currently in progress or have been submitted, and it came to a total of 83 applications. He also mentioned that the requests valued to date is \$22 million, and the eligible requests will represent a subset of the following data:

- Students represented – 12,749
- Average Total of Requests Per School - \$393K
- Value of Requests Per Student - \$1.7K

Tate mentioned that at this time, 83 percent of the EANS I funds have been requested by private schools.

WALKTHROUGH OF COMPLETED EANS APPLICATIONS - Tate Toedman

(00:01:41)

Tate Toedman went through the process of review for the Task Force when the completed EANS applications are starting to flow through. The Task Force will receive the completed applications, and the itemized requests in the pre-read material they receive on Wednesdays.

The application will ask schools what form of instruction they were using in the fall, and what form of instruction they are currently using (remote, hybrid, or in-person). It will also request (in narrative format) how the pandemic has affected their school directly; this section will help reviewers understand the dynamic of the schools, and understand what requests they may need.

Also, other sources of funding the private school has received must be listed on their EANS Application. If a private school has received a loan guaranteed under the Paycheck Protection Program *after* December 27th, 2020, they may not apply and accept PPP and still be eligible for the EANS funds.

(00:06:24)

If a private school requests reimbursement for property, and the expense is deemed eligible and the state reimburses the school, then the property will then belong to the State of Kansas.

Tate mentioned that there are eight KSDE reviewers, and two reviewers from the TASN (Technical Assistance Systems Network) evaluation team that reviewing the applications as they are being received. A dossier will be presented to the Task Force for the private schools that have some requests deemed as ineligible by the review team.

KSDE Approach to Common Themes in EANS Applications – Tate Toedman

(00:21:45)

Tate Toedman then discussed the approach in which KSDE is taking to the approve of the completed applications. All of the reviewers are meeting daily to make sure any application questions answered, and the approval of requested items are consistent across the board (regardless of who the reviewer may be).

Brenda Dietrich asked if there is an appeal process in place for schools if an application has been deemed ineligible, and Tate responded that there is an appeal process and the appeal information will be sent to the private schools after the entire application process has closed on April 16th, 2021 (when the Task Force reviews the last batch of completed EANS apps). Throughout the process, the Task Force will be provided with recommendations from the KSDE review team, then the Task Force will be able to provide recommendations to the school, and once the Kansas State Board of Education has received the application, they can make recommendations as well. If the school does not agree with the recommendations from the KSDE review team, the Task Force, and the State Board, then they will be able to appeal their application.

Tate mentioned that in the initial screenings, the reviewers have identified several common categories of eligible requests such as:

- Summer School Personnel
- Additional School Year Personnel
- Supplies to minimize the spread of COVID-19

The review team at KSDE is applying a consistent approach in the application review process to assess COVID-19 need in context.

Tate mentioned that at this time, the review team has received quite a bit of technology requests that are not tied to learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, this area is where the Task Force will see a good percentage of ineligible requests.

The following is the KSDE review team's approach to determining eligibility:

- The need that the request will fulfill must be incremental to pre-COVID school needs.
- The incremental need must be directly caused by COVID-19.

CONTINUED - KSDE Approach to Common Themes in EANS Applications – Tate Toedman

(00:31:06)

During this section, Tate discussed with the Task Force that requests for permanent fixtures requiring installation/removal are being deemed as ineligible because all property must be removed from the building when it is no longer in use, or when the EANS program ends. Also, IEP mandated services do not directly address a COVID-19 need; however, EANS services can be used to provide allowable support to students with disabilities who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

He also mentioned that “off-menu” item requests that also exist on the Service Center menu may be eligible, but products will be procured through the Service Center and substitutes may be used. Part-time personnel will be employed through Service Centers and paid using statewide hourly rates; personnel requested using different rates may be eligible, but will be paid based on the statewide rates.

KSDE will recommend eligibility for part-time personnel if the request ties to a COVID-19 need, but will use the set state rate of pay which is \$20 per hour. The set rate of pay has raised quite a bit of discussion between the KSDE review team and the private schools, as the part-time employees being hired through the Service Centers for the private schools may be receiving a higher wage than full-time employees.

(00:39:25)

Tate mentioned that in the next few weeks, the Task Force will focus on requests that were deemed eligible and ineligible by KSDE reviewers.

ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting at 4:10pm. The next meeting will occur on Friday, April 9th at 3:00pm.