



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

March 18, 2021

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Michael Rodrigues, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Jason Lewis, Chair
Joint Committee on Education
State House, Room 511B
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Alice Peisch, Chair
Joint Committee on Education
State House, Room 473G
Boston, MA 02133

Re: State Coronavirus Prevention Fund Program

Dear Chairs:

We are submitting this update on the Coronavirus Prevention Fund Program pursuant to the requirements required by line item [7061-0027](#).

The Coronavirus Prevention Fund Program provides \$53,060,000 for one-time funding to school districts, charter schools, and educational collaboratives for additional assistance to support coronavirus prevention efforts and to maintain and increase educational quality during the pandemic.

The budget provides for each district, charter school, and educational collaborative to receive funding equal to the sum of \$25 multiplied by their FY2021 foundation enrollment plus \$75 multiplied by their low-income enrollment, see the [file](#) posted on the Department's website for

the list of awards. Students from school districts who attend charter schools and educational collaboratives are assigned to the charter schools and educational collaboratives that they attend based on October 1, 2019 enrollment data. Also, students assigned to a non-operating districts' foundation enrollment are assigned to the operating districts that they attend. Based on the student eligibility and per pupil fund levels defined by the line item, \$50,061,463 in total funding scheduled is to be distributed.

Eligible uses for the funds include, but are not limited to, personal protective equipment, hygienic supplies, costs associated with socially distanced onsite learning, remote learning, or hybrid approaches as determined by the district, charter school, or collaborative. Recipients can also use their funds for any expenses required to ensure that low-income and other vulnerable students receive assistance and support that provides them equal access to educational opportunities, including but not limited to, assistance overcoming technological hurdles to learning and access to social services, mental health, and behavioral health resources to address the potential trauma and other effects of the pandemic on students. These guidelines have been communicated to recipients and the Department has issued an [FAQ](#) to answer specific questions about eligible uses for the funds.

The Department is distributing the funding in two equal payments. The first payment was issued during the first week of March and the second payment will be made at the end of April when the account is fully funded. Once the money is received, we are directing school districts, charter schools, and educational collaboratives to deposit the funds in a separate account so that they can be spent without further action on the part of the local appropriating authority by June 30, 2021. School districts and charter schools will be required to report these funds as a state grant expenditure on their fiscal year 2021 end of year reports, and we are prepared to implement any additional reporting requirements as directed by the legislature.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Robert O'Donnell, Director of School Finance, at Robert.F.O'Donnell@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education