CARES Act- School Emergency Relief Fund for

Great Falls Schools

Please remember:

- CARES Act Money is for COVID (one-time only specific categories)
- Bond Money is for Buildings
- Levy Money is for Learning (General Operational costs- ongoing)

Estimated Funding- (we do not know exact amounts yet or other details for certain)

Elementary- $1,883,414.90 est, Secondary- $499,037.63 est

- These funds will be allocated based on the Title I distribution formulas and distributed to school districts by OPI through to the E-grants portal.
- The funds allocated to school districts must be utilized by September of 2021 or returned to the Federal Government.

What the CARES Act Relief money CAN be used for:

Priorities for GFPS based on Federal guidelines:

Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population. THE CARES ACT FUNDS ARE RESTRICTED FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND CANNOT BE USED TO REPLACE GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES.

- Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
- Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.
- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.
- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students and staff who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
- Providing additional mental health services and supports.
- Planning and providing meals to eligible students,
o Providing guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) and,

o Ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.

**What the CARES Act Relief money CANNOT be used for:**

**General Fund Budget expenditures for 2020-2021 or ongoing operational costs such as:**

- Insurance, utilities, regular cleaning, maintenance and up keep of facilities
- Supplies, materials and equipment for student learning and teaching
- Supplies and materials for business, data processing and administrative operations
- Contractual service agreements for various supports for business operations and student achievement
- General Curriculum materials and text books
- Travel and professional association dues
- Professional development of staff and orientation of new employees
- Contractual obligations for all employee groups; salaries and benefits
- Human Resources recruitment, hiring and on-boarding
- Student athletic and co-curricular activities
- Printing and mailing costs
- Contractual services for safety and security
- General technology, software agreements, maintenance costs and refresh of equipment
- Library materials, data bases and resources
- Regular Counseling services and resources
- Substitute teachers and aides
- Communication equipment and maintenance agreements
- District vehicle and equipment maintenance, repair and fuel costs

Link to CARES Act Document- [https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares](https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/cares)