Commissioner's Task Force on ESSER II and EANS Distribution of Money
Friday, April 9, 2021

Call to Order
Chairman Porter called the weekly meeting of the Commissioner's Task Force to order at 3:00p.m. on Friday, April 9th, 2021.
The meeting was conducted via video conference and was live streamed for the public to observe and listen.

(00:03:46)

Approval of Agenda
Jason Winbolt made a motion to approve the agenda for the April 9th meeting, and Bert Lewis had seconded it. (16-0). Brenda Dietrich, Adam Thomas, and Adam Proffitt were not present at the beginning of the meeting to vote on this motion.

MOTION
(00:04:39)

Attendance:
The following Task Force members attended by video conference: Brenda Dietrich was not in attendance.

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

Approval of April 2nd Meeting Minutes
Bert Lewis made a motion to approve of the April 2nd minutes, and Jason Winbolt had seconded it (16-0). Brenda Dietrich, Adam Thomas, and Adam Proffitt were not present at the beginning of the meeting to vote on this motion.

MOTION
(00:05:21)

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EANS Application Status Update – Tate Toedman   (00:05:56)

Tate Toedman discussed that the Task Force will be recommending approval of the EANS applications next Friday, April 16th. The Task Force will not be approving any applications during this week's meeting. Tate then mentioned that the KSDE review team has received 72 EANS applications, and the total dollar amount for requests is $27.4 million (which is slightly higher than Kansas' 26.7 million EANS allocation). He then stated that the majority of requests (65 percent) is for full-time **and** part-time personnel; remaining 35% is for products and services.

All 72 EANS applications have entered review, and the KSDE review team has completed 56 applications. Tate also went over data that included all submitted requests to-date; and the eligible requests will represent a subset of this data.

- Students Represented – 17,008

- Average Total Value of Requests Per School - $386K

- Value of Requests Per Student - $1.6K (over total length of program)

For the items requested from private schools, below will be the percentages to breakdown which areas the items were requested from: (00:18:20)

- 34 percent – Products and Services

- 46 percent – Full time personnel

- 19 percent – Part time personnel

- 1 percent – reimbursements

Tate then mentioned that if there are any proposals to change any recommendations from the KSDE review team, the change would be subject to majority vote of the Task Force. The slate of reviewed requests from the April 9th meeting (including any proposed and approved changes) will be included for final review from the Task Force on April 16th.

Summary and Discussion Of Personnel Requests Deemed Eligible By KSDE – Tate Toedman   (00:19:54)

Tate went through a few examples of what was deemed eligible by KSDE through personnel requests, and his examples are shown below.

- Full-time certified teachers and paras to enable schools to decrease class sizes and provide individualized student support to address learning loss.

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Continued - Summary and Discussion Of Personnel Requests Deemed Eligible By KSDE – Tate Toedman (00:21:33)

- Summer school and after school support to provide additional learning time for students, to mitigate the disruption of the past year caused by COVID.

- Other support services to enable social emotional growth and minimize COVID spread among students.

Discussion Of Personnel Requests Deemed Ineligible By KSDE – Tate Toedman (00:24:35)

Tate stated that this the list of ineligible requests will <u>only</u> include the 36 EANS applications (first batch) that have been reviewed by the KSDE review team.

The breakdown of ineligible requests that were presented to the Task Force will include the following:

- 16 requests recommended as ineligible given recent federal guidance that **does not permit EANS funds to be used for custodial personnel** (*$606K value*).

- 1 request recommended as ineligible given it **did not appear to relate to an incremental COVID need** (*$59K value*).

- Multiple requests which required **revision of full-time/part-time classification and compensation** in order to be deemed eligible in accordance with Kansas' EANS program criteria.

Tate mentioned that on March 19th, the United States Dept. of Education updated their guidance on the EANS program, and during this time the private schools were in the process of filling out their applications. It was clarified by the United States Dept. of Education this week that schools will not be reimbursed for contracted cleaning services, but they can request reimbursement for supplies to sanitize, disinfect, and clean school facilities.

Next, Tate Toedman mentioned that there will only be one service center (Orion Education & Training Service Center) who will be hiring staff, and the service center will plan to provide similar health care benefits, and pay as they do for their own employees.

Continued – Discussion Of Personnel Requests Deemed Ineligible By KSDE – Tate Toedman   (00:47:15)

Tate discussed that there have been multiple requests that required revisions of full-time/ part-time classification and compensation to be deemed eligible, and if the school's original request required revisions, the KSDE review team would recommend the following:

1. Change the full-time request to part-time classification

   - Hourly wage is set at a statewide rate.

2. Change the part-time request to full-time classification

   - Salary and working time reflect reasonable full-time amounts.

3. Remove personnel request from application.

Full-time personnel requests (defined by):

- Requested position must be for at least 30 hours per week during school year.

- School sets estimated salary

- KSDE incorporates estimated taxes and benefits.

Part-time personnel requests (defined by):

- Requested position must be below 30 hours per week during the school year.

- KSDE determines hourly wage based on statewide guidelines

  - $20 to $30 depending on position.

Discussion Of Approach To Education Technology Requests – Tate Toedman   (00:50:03)

Tate mentioned that the KSDE review team is applying a consistent approach to assessing COVID-19 need across requests. Depending on the context the school provides on their application, the same item could potentially be recommended as eligible for one school, and ineligible for the next. To prepare for next week's Task Force meeting, Tate went through a "deep dive" of technology requests to gather initial input from Task Force members.

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Continued - Discussion Of Approach To Education Technology Requests – Tate Toedman

(00:52:16)

For the educational technology requests, the request must comply with one of the following allowable uses for the EANS funds:

- Educational technology (including hardware, software, connectivity, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment) to assist students, educators, and other staff with remote or hybrid learning.

- Initiating and maintaining education and support services or assistance for remote or hybrid learning or to address learning loss.

The requests must also comply with other relevant federal funding guidelines (recap) which is:

- All expenditures must be **reasonable**, **necessary**, and **allocable** (proportional).

- Property and equipment may be purchased by the state and shared with the private school to meet their needs, but the **property must then be returned to the state** or **purchased by the private school at the fair market value**.

- Property and services **may only be provided when required for the stated need**, and generally **not held in anticipation of future need**.

- All services and materials must be **secular**, **neutral**, **and non-ideological**.

Tate mentioned that when a private school requests educational technology, the requests must:

- Specify or demonstrate **actual learning loss due to COVID-19**

- Explicitly describe **how the requested devices will address learning loss**.

- Assume replacement of old devices only if old devices are **no longer functional due to COVID-19**.

- Include a **quantity** that is reasonable given the scope of activity.

He then went over a set of eligible and ineligible education technology requests, and the rationale of the KSDE review team on why the request was deemed ineligible.

(01:00:43)

Continued - Discussion Of Approach To Education Technology Requests – Tate Toedman

(01:20:54)

Tate mentioned that there have been items requested to improve social distancing, and to be deemed eligible by the KSDE review team, the requests need to:

- Be an additional amount of something previously being shared prior to COVID to enable social distancing.

- Describe how the additional items would prevent or reduce cross contamination and spread of COVID.

- Include a quantity that is reasonable given the scope of activity.

After Tate went over the requirements for the social distancing requests, he then explained examples of eligible and ineligible requests.

Next Steps and Plan for 04/16 Task Force Meeting – Tate Toedman

(01:22:45)

Tate Toedman went through the steps for the next meeting that is scheduled to occur on April 16th. He discussed that the Task Force will be provided with all reviewed EANS applications as pre-read on Wednesday, April 14th (and the apps will also be available on the Commissioner's Task Force web page - Commissioner's Task Force (ksde.org)). He also mentioned that KSDE plans to incorporate any changes to education technology and personnel requests that occurred during today's meeting.

Chairman Porter emphasized that the Task Force will **not** vote on all of the EANS applications individually, as there are numerous schools that all of their requests have been deemed eligible, and in this case, Chairman Porter will ask the Task Force at the beginning of the meeting if they have any questions regarding those specific applications, and if not, then the Task Force will vote to approve the applications in one motion. The applications that have ineligible requests will be reviewed by the Task Force individually.

ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m. The next meeting will occur on Friday, April 16th at 3:00 p.m.

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