

MINUTES

Commissioner's Task Force on ESSER II and EANS Distribution of Money Friday, April 16, 2021



Call to Order

(00:02:20)

Chairman Porter called the weekly meeting of the Commissioner's Task Force to order at 3:00p.m. on Friday, April 16th.

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

Approval of Agenda

MOTION
(00:02:26)

Adam Proffitt made a motion to approve the agenda for the April 16th meeting, and Melissa Rooker had seconded it. (17-0). Alicia Thompson and Tracy Callard were not present at the beginning of the meeting to vote on this motion.

Attendance:

The following Task Force members attended by video conference:

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
Brenda Dietrich	

Approval of April 9th Meeting Minutes

MOTION
(00:03:11)

Bert Lewis made a motion to approve of the April 9th minutes, and Jason Winbolt had seconded it (17-0). Alicia Thompson and Tracy Callard were not present at the beginning of the meeting to vote on this motion.

EANS Application Status Update and Summary Of All Applications – Tate Toedman

(00:05:21)

Tate mentioned that the application window had closed on April 2nd. The KSDE review team received 72 applications, and the total amount in requests is now \$26.9 million (which is slightly higher than Kansas' \$26.7 million EANS allocation).

He then mentioned that there are two unique circumstances out of the 72 schools that applied for EANS funding that will have their application pulled for further discussion (Kansas Academy Institute and Heritage Christian Academy), and these will be pulled for further discussion with the Task Force.

- Kansas Academy Institute – does not have and did not request a building number, nor does it meet the operational definition from KSDE of an elementary or secondary school in Kansas.
- Heritage Christian Academy (0276) – requests for products and services not submitted properly despite multiple attempts; personnel requests have been evaluated and deemed eligible.

Tate discussed that the majority of requests were deemed eligible by the KSDE review team, 80% of requests to be exact (estimating at \$21.9 million value), and 20% of the requests were deemed ineligible (estimating at \$5.1 million value).

He then mentioned that the dollar amounts that are discussed today will be considerably high as the KSDE review team has included shipping, employee benefits, etc.

Reconsideration and Appeal Process Overview – Tate Toedman

(00:13:00)

Tate wanted to give a recap of the assistance that the KSDE review team has offered to the private schools during the application process, and some of the items listed were:

- Live online training sessions (recorded and posted online)
- 3 office hours to answer questions
- Submission template with details explanations
- FAQ document posted online
- Allowable use examples document posted online
- EANS email address monitored; all school questions addressed in a timely fashion
- Follow-up with schools after application submission

Tate mentioned that additional opportunities will be provided to private schools to resubmit ineligible requests and submit new requests. The current process the KSDE review team has in place will be the following:

1. Initial Round – March 22nd through April 2nd
2. Reconsideration – April 20th through April 27th
3. Appeals – TBD (expecting to be around May/June)
4. Second Round of Funding – TBD; EANS II Application process will begin. The tight deadline we experienced during the EANS I application process will be very similar to the EANS II application process.

He also emphasized that if an ineligible request is to change to an eligible request (according to the KSDE review team), the request will then be given to the Task Force during the reconsideration/appeal process.

Summary and Discussion Of Eligible Requests – Tate Toedman

(00:25:11)

Tate discussed that the average dollar amount in eligible requests per school was \$304K (the range was \$10K to \$808K per school in eligible requests). Over the total length of the program, the value of eligible requests per student will be \$1.3K.

He mentioned that the majority of eligible requests will be going towards personnel, with significant investments in several other categories, including the following:

- Personnel Requests – 68% - \$15.0 million
- Curriculum and Professional Development – 12% - \$2.5 million
- Technology – 9% - \$2.0 million
- Sanitization – 6% - \$1.3 million
- SEL and Mental Health – 5% - \$1.1 million

Summary and Discussion Of Ineligible Requests – Tate Toedman

(00:33:01)

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

Ineligible requests represent 19% of total requested value. The ineligible request presentation was separated into seven categories, and those categories will include the following (and their requested value):

1. Unique Circumstances - \$0.03 million
2. Non-Allowable Categories - \$1.5 million
3. Technology - \$2.7 million
4. Curriculum and Professional Development - \$0.4 million
5. Personnel - \$0.2 million
6. SEL and Mental Health - \$0.2 million
7. Sanitization - \$0.1 million

Tate then discussed the two “Unique Circumstances” ineligible requests, and they included the following schools:

The Kansas Academy: The KSDE review team recommended to the Task Force that the Kansas Academy’s (entire) application is ineligible. The school did not have and did not request a building number (which is required for the application process), nor does it meet the operational definition from KSDE of an elementary or secondary school in Kansas.

Heritage Christian – The KSDE review team recommended to the Task Force that Heritage Christian Academy’s completed personnel requests are eligible, and the remainder of their requests are ineligible. The school had submitted an incomplete application and has not been able to resolve the application issues within the EANS review timeframe. The school’s completed personnel requests have been evaluated and deemed eligible.

Next, Tate mentioned the “Non-Allowable Categories” of ineligible requests; which consisted of custodial staff and permanent fixtures (totaling to \$1,485). Some of the ineligible requests in the “Non-Allowable Category” were broken into sub-categories for further explanation, and the sub-categories included:

- Custodial Staff/Services (46 requests; amounting to \$1,067)
- Permanent Fixtures (24 requests; amounting to \$320K)
- Non-Secular (8 requests; amounting to \$76K)
- Paid for with Another Federal Funds/Donation (3 requests; amounting to \$12K)
- Used to Meet IEP Needs (1 request; amounting to \$4K)
- Used to Meet State Requirement (1 request; amounting to \$4K)
- Non-K through 12, etc. (1 request; amounting to \$0.2K)

He then mentioned the rationale that the KSDE review team had for the ineligible requests in the sub-categories listed above.

Then, Tate discussed the third category which was Technology. The ineligible requests for technology were grouped into 10 sub-categories which included the following:

- In-Person School, Remote/Hybrid Request (110 requests; amounting to \$1,330)
- Instructional Tech -Unnecessary and/or unreasonable (22 requests; amounting to \$444K)
- Tied to Ineligible Device (14 requests; amounting to \$38K)
- Rationale Not Related to COVID (12 requests; amounting to \$176K)
- Software and Tech Support Not Related to COVID (12 requests; amounting to \$58K)
- Outdated Tech Replacement (11 requests; amounting to \$438K)
- Learning Loss – Insufficient Rationale (9 requests; amounting to \$131K)
- Unrelated Tech (Data Storage & Printers) (7 requests; amounting to \$18K)
- Livestreaming Events (5 requests; amounting to \$8K)
- Unreasonable Quantity or Stated Need, etc. (3 requests; amounting to \$53K)

Tate then went over that the ineligible rationale with the sub-categories listed above. Janet Eaton mentioned that the Task Force will most likely see a large amount of technology requests during the reconsideration/appeal process, and Tate agreed.

Next, Tate discussed the fourth sub-category of ineligible requests; which is Curriculum and PD, and it was separated into four sub-categories, and they were:

- Curriculum Material Not Necessary to Address Incremental COVID Need (18 requests; amounting to \$32K)
- Field Trips and Busses (17 requests; amounting to \$178K)
- Rationale Doesn't Explain Addressing of COVID Need (16 requests; amounting to \$191K)
- Remote/Hybrid – In-Person School (58 requests; amounting to \$406K)

The next ineligible request category Tate had discussed was personnel, and it was separated into three sub-categories, which consist of the following (amounting to \$238K over the length of the program):

- Vice Principal (1 request; amounting to \$178K (\$55K per year request; for two years and benefits)
- Librarian – (1 request; amounting to \$59K)
- Insufficient amount of info - \$1K (taxes and fees only; no position) – again, the school didn't provide enough information.

He then discussed the rationale behind deeming the requests above as ineligible.

Tate then covered the ineligible requests for SEL & Mental Health; which had been grouped into four sub-categories, and the sub-categories consisted of:

- Not sufficiently related to COVID (6 requests; amounting to \$19K)
- Not student-oriented program (3 requests; amounting to \$9K)
- Not incremental program (2 requests; amounting to \$15K)
- Unreasonable (summer camp, gardening) (127 requests; amounting to \$127K)

He then went through the rationale of the ineligible requests, and why the KSDE review team deemed them as ineligible.

The last ineligible request category Tate went over was sanitization, and it was broken up into six sub-categories which consisted of:

- Unrelated cleaning (bathroom maintenance, dust/dirt, waxing floors) (45 requests; amounting to \$21K)
- Unrelated furniture & appliances (in-seat movement, teacher desk, and kitchen) (11 requests; amounting to \$17K)
- PE/Play Equipment (8 requests; amounting to \$2K)
- Not necessary to facilitate social distancing/prevent cross-contamination (6 requests; amounting to \$12K)
- Rationale not related to COVID (3 requests; amounting to \$1K)
- No-Contact Vision Screener (1 request; amounting to \$8K)

Vote To Recommend Application Slate To KSBOE – Chairman Porter

(01:11:55)

Chairman Porter opened the meeting to the Task Force members for any questions; in which several questions were asked from Task Force members.

Frank Harwood made a motion to pull the three food service requests from Sacred Heart Elementary (in Shawnee, KS) EANS application for further review, and to be discussed during the reconsideration/ appeal process. Lisa Peters had seconded the motion. Motion carried (19-0).

MOTION
(01:27:40)

Frank Harwood made a motion to approve the remaining recommendations as presented by the KSDE team. Bert Lewis had seconded it. Motion carried (19-0).

MOTION
(01:29:18)

Next Steps – Tate Toedman

(01:30:28)

Tate Toedman mentioned that the next few steps that will take place after this afternoon’s Task Force meeting has finished, and the next step items include the following:

- KSDE to incorporate any approved Task Force changes to eligibility determinations
- KSDE to finalize materials for KSBOE meeting on Monday
- KSBOE to give final approval to slate of recommendations
- KSDE to inform schools and service centers of determinations and provide instructions for reconsideration requests
- Next week (04/23): The Task Force meeting will be scheduled for an hour, and will help prepare the Task Force for the ESSER II application process (25 applications received to date).

ADJOURNMENT - Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m. The next meeting will occur on Friday, April 23rd at 3:00 p.m.