

**American Rescue Plan Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools (ARP EANS)
Program
Frequently Asked Questions for New Jersey Nonpublic Schools
Updated February 8, 2022**

Eligibility and Funding

1. Q: What data were used to calculate the nonpublic schools' low-income eligibility?

New Jersey's significant poverty percentage is 22.3%, which is based on the State's average percentage of students from low-income families in nonpublic schools (based on the free or reduced-price meals data), as reported in the FY2020 Nonpublic Enrollment Report. Note: The ARP EANS program requires the use of data from FY2020, as it did for CRRSA EANS. *If a nonpublic school does not meet the state's low-income threshold, the nonpublic school is not eligible to participate in the ARP EANS program.*

2. Q: What data were used to determine the schools most impacted by the COVID-19 emergency?

Nonpublic schools that meet the low-income eligibility criteria will be assigned a per pupil funding amount based on their infection rates, with higher infection rates corresponding to higher per pupil values. A New Jersey nonpublic school is determined to be most impacted by the COVID-19 emergency based on the number of COVID-19 infections per capita in the school's county of residence, as reported on [NJ COVID-19 Hub](#). All eligible nonpublic schools will receive COVID impact allocations.

3. Q: What will happen to unused ARP EANS funds?

Based on the ARP EANS applications submitted by nonpublic schools, the NJDOE will know if some schools are ineligible for the funds or do not have additional COVID-related needs that have been or are being addressed by CRRSA EANS or CARES. If there is insufficient demand for services or assistance and the NJDOE has unobligated funds remaining six months after receiving those funds, the federal statute requires the NJDOE to return those funds to the Governor for any authorized use under the GEER II Fund.

Uses of Funds

4. Q: What restrictions are there on the use of ARP EANS funds? Will nonpublic schools be able to apply for and receive any of the eligible services and assistance listed in the application and on the NJDOE website?

Allowable uses of the funds are specified by the USDE and are targeted toward educational disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 emergency. The full list of allowable uses is provided on the nonpublic schools [ARP EANS webpage](#). However, the service providers with whom NJDOE will subcontract may not be able to provide all the services listed as allowable uses of funds. Nonpublic schools will be able to select their providers through a provider selection survey, similar to the one completed for CRRSA EANS. A list of approved providers and the services they offer will be shared with applicants prior to their selection.

5. Q: Can a nonpublic school replace its ventilation system?

The ARP EANS program allows for improvements to ventilation systems, including the repair of windows or purchasing new portable air purification systems. Equipment and supplies purchased with ARP EANS funds must be able to be removed from a nonpublic school without remodeling the school facility. A ventilation system that is installed and becomes a capital improvement does not meet these requirements. Similarly, new windows would not be permissible. A portable air purification system and repairing old windows to facilitate air flow are allowable.

6. Q: Why aren't retroactive reimbursements possible for New Jersey's ARP EANS program?

The ARP EANS Act does not allow reimbursements.

7. Q: What does it mean that the NJDOE will hold title to all purchases?

This means the NJDOE will hold title to all materials, equipment, and property that it purchases under this program. For example, if a nonpublic school requests to purchase laptops for students and teachers to facilitate online learning, the Department obtains title for the laptops from the nonpublic school. The NJDOE may continue to allow the laptops to be used by nonpublic school students and teachers.

8. Q: What type of tracking and documentation of equipment and supplies purchased through ARP EANS will be required?

Equipment and supplies purchased with ARP EANS funds for students and teachers in a nonpublic school may be used for the authorized purposes of the ARP EANS program during the period of performance or until the equipment and supplies are no longer needed for the purposes of the ARP EANS program. After equipment and supplies are no longer needed for the purposes of the ARP EANS program, the NJDOE may allow the nonpublic school to continue using them in the nonpublic school to the extent they are needed for other allowable purposes under another federal education program, such as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The NJDOE must retain title to, and maintain administrative control over, the equipment and supplies or transfer title and control to another public agency such as a school district that provides equitable services under another federal education program

9. Q: Can a nonpublic school hire a teacher through the ARP EANS program?

No, the ARP EANS program does not cover teachers' salaries.

10. Q: Can a nonpublic school offer after-school programming or summer school?

Yes. After school programming or summer school is permitted under the ARP EANS program if it is to address learning loss. All staffing needs will be provided through an approved provider that holds a contract with the NJDOE.

11. Q: What types of programs and activities related to learning loss are allowable?

Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and afterschool and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care are allowable. In addition, services for students to address the social/emotional needs of students due to COVID-19 may be addressed.

12. Q: Can a nonpublic school that includes preschool provide services to their preschool children through the ARP EANS program?

Preschool children who are enrolled in a nonpublic elementary school that receives ARP EANS services or assistance may be served. However, a stand-alone nonpublic preschool is not eligible for services or assistance under the ARP EANS program.

13. Q: Can a nonpublic school provide additional nursing services through the ARP EANS program?

Yes. Nursing services must fall into one of the allowable use categories for the ARP EANS program. All staffing needs will be provided through an approved provider that holds a contract with the NJDOE.

14. Q: What are the certification requirements for teachers/tutors/staff who provide services related to learning loss?

All teachers/tutors/staff who provide services through the CRRSA and ARP EANS programs must be provided through an approved provider that holds a contract with the NJDOE. Due to staffing shortages, the NJDOE is providing additional flexibility on the certification requirements of staff who will address student learning loss through the EANS program. All instructional and related services to address learning loss must be provided by educators who hold the appropriate state license for the position in which they are working, with the following additional flexibility.

- **Substitutes:** If substitutes meet NJ certification requirements (i.e., possess a NJ substitute teacher's license), then these individuals can serve as teachers in an extended day/year program. There may be instances in which a student's Service Plan stipulates a licensed teacher (special education/general education) must provide instructional services, so consideration needs to be given to these types of situations. Please reference NJDOE substitute credentials and service limits.
- **Paraprofessionals:** Paraprofessionals, sometimes referred to as teacher aides or instructional aides, can provide instructional services under the direct supervision of a licensed teacher. The licensed teacher must write the lesson plans and prepare the instructional lessons. A paraprofessional is a non-certified instructional staff person who does not hold the position of teacher but assists in the classroom under the guidance of a teacher. Paraprofessionals do not need to meet ESEA highly qualified requirements.
- **Alternate Route Teachers:** If a district employs teachers earning their NJ certification through the Alternate Route Program, then these individuals may provide instructional services in an extended day/year program, before-/after-school program, summer, or weekend program, etc., under the supervision of a NJ licensed teacher.

Complaint Process

15. Q: What is the complaint process for problems/disagreements with vendors?

Nonpublic schools can contact the EANS program liaison, Constance Webster, at EANS@doe.nj.gov.