

## TPSA: Equitable Services Under the CARES Act in Layman's Language

The Texas Private School Association provided some guidance for private schools in Texas in a May 26 email that describes CARES Act funding available to private schools in easily understood language. The following is quoted from that guidance, with specific references to Texas agencies and data removed.

### CARES Act Funding

Texas was allotted . . . of the \$13.5 billion in the CARES Act for coronavirus relief for US K–12 education. . . . Private schools will get a proportionate share of these funds due to the total K–12 enrollment of their school as of March. This will happen in the same way that other federal funds have been distributed in the past—through equitable services.

This means that the local school district consults with each private school about its needs related to this pandemic and arranges to meet these needs by purchasing items or services that remain under the control of the local school district, but are in use at the private school. This allows a school to avoid being a recipient of federal funds. You do not need to have participated in these equitable services discussions before in order to participate now.

### Consultation Happening Soon

We hope you have made contact with the person in your local school district who is in charge of federal programs. . . . This is the person you will be consulting with in order to receive these services. The local school district may not apply to receive their funds until they have consulted with every private school located in their district. This does not include for-profit schools or stand-alone preschools.

In order to be ready for your consultation, please have:

- your K–12 enrollment as of March
- your needs assessment (see list of eligible items below)
- your personal calendar for any follow-up meetings
- your school calendar for anything that needs to be scheduled like a deep cleaning or technology delivery
- your personal contact information so that the district can contact you at any time with follow-up questions, etc.

### What These Funds Can Be Used For:

- tutoring for next year
- counseling for students
- online subscriptions
- Zoom licenses
- technology (*Schools may not be reimbursed for purchases already made. If you have already purchased technology, you may be able to have the vendor re-invoice the school district and issue a refund to the school. Ask your school district about this possibility.*)
- PPE
- thermometers
- cleaning supplies
- professional development

While you may have some acute needs now that could be immediately addressed (e.g. purchasing of distance education technology for students), you may also arrange to have some services delivered at a later time (e.g. scheduling a deep cleaning of school facilities a month prior to the academic year commencing in the fall).