THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
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Dear Colleague:

This letter is regarding the federal Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (EANS) program. EANS is part of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSA Act), the second federal economic stimulus package, passed in December 2020.

The CRRSA Act created a fund that was directed to each state's Governor, and within that fund, it allocated EANS money to religious and independent schools. A total of $248.9 million has been made available for New York State's religious and independent schools. Unlike last year's CARES Act, which required local school districts to provide equitable services to nonpublic schools, these EANS funds will be directly administered by the New York State Education Department (NYSED). NYSED has worked with the New York State Division of the Budget (DOB) and Governor's Office to develop this program.

For your school to receive a share of the funds, you must submit a Letter of Intent to NYSED by March 17, 2021, as explained in more detail below. Schools that do not submit a Letter of Intent in one of the approved formats (see below) by the deadline will not be able to participate. Governor Cuomo and NYSED encourage you to participate in this federally funded program.

School Eligibility Criteria - Schools must meet the following five conditions to participate:

1) The school must be a not-for-profit that serves students in kindergarten through grade 12. Approved private special education schools, including Chapter 853 schools and State-supported schools for the blind and deaf, are eligible to participate. Programs that only serve preschool students with disabilities and special act school districts are not eligible to participate.

2) The school must be accredited, licensed, or otherwise approved to operate in accordance with State law.

3) The school must have been in existence prior to March 13, 2020 and be providing instruction in the current (2020-21) school year.

4)

School-Level Allocation Methodology - Allocations will be determined as follows:

1) K-12 Enrollment: 35 percent of total funding (i.e., $87.1 million of the $248.9 million) will be allocated based on total 2019-20 school year K-12 enrollment. The per-pupil funding amount will equal $87.1 million divided by the total K-12 enrollment of nonpublic schools seeking to apply for funding. An individual school's award from this component will equal the per-pupil amount multiplied by the school's 2019-20 enrollment.

2) Low-Income Students: 35 percent of total funding (i.e., $87.1 million of the $248.9 million) will be allocated based on 2019-20 school year low-income K-12 student counts. The per-pupil funding amount will equal $87.1 million divided by the total low-income student counts of nonpublic schools seeking to apply for funding. An individual school's award from this component will equal the per-pupil amount multiplied by the school's 2019-20 low-income student count.

3) COVID-19 Impact: 30 percent of total funding (i.e., $74.7 million of the $248.9 million) will be allocated based on the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e., increased costs plus loss of revenue minus public funding received to date to offset such costs). An individual school's award from this component will equal the per-pupil amount multiplied by the school's 2019-20 enrollment. The per-pupil funding amount will equal the lesser of the following:

    A. $74.7 million divided by the total 2019-20 enrollment of nonpublic schools seeking to apply for funding, or

    B. the school's per-pupil COVID financial impact (i.e., its reported COVID-19 financial impact divided by its total 2019-20 K-12 enrollment).

    If the full $74.7 million is not allocated by this initial calculation (i.e., because some schools' COVID-19 financial impact is less than the per-pupil amount calculated in step A above), the per-pupil amount in step A will be increased so that the full $74.7 million can be allocated.

Potential Per-Pupil Funding Amounts - The per-pupil funding amounts calculated using the allocation methodology described above will depend on the total enrollment of the nonpublic schools seeking to apply for funding, the total count of low-income students they serve, and the financial impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the school. The table on the following page illustrates a range of potential outcomes for these per-pupil funding amounts. For example, if the schools seeking to apply represent 80 percent of statewide nonpublic enrollment (roughly consistent with the experience of Mandated Services Aid/Comprehensive Attendance Policy), and if 55 percent of those schools' total pupils were low income (roughly consistent with the

			Participating Schools as % of Statewide Enrollment		
			70%	80%	90%
Low-Income Enrollment as % of Participating Schools' Total Enrollment	40%	K-12 Enrollment: $ Per Pupil	$310	$270	$240
		Low-Income: $ Per Low-Income Pupil	$790	$690	$610
		COVID-19 Impact: Initial Max $ Per Pupil	$270	$230	$210
	55%	K-12 Enrollment: $ Per Pupil	$310	$270	$240
		Low-Income: $ Per Low-Income Pupil	$570	$500	$450
		COVID-19 Impact: Initial Max $ Per Pupil	$270	$230	$210
	70%	K-12 Enrollment: $ Per Pupil	$310	$270	$240
		Low-Income: $ Per Low-Income Pupil	$450	$390	$350
		COVID-19 Impact: Initial Max $ Per Pupil	$270	$230	$210

Note: Per-pupil funding amounts in table are rounded down to the nearest $10.

New York State EANS Program Timeline - The State will implement the program on the following timeline:

February 22 – Governor applied to the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) for funds under this federal program.

March 1 – NYSED notifies eligible schools and advises them to submit a Letter of Intent. This letter is part of that notification process. A description of how to submit a Letter of Intent is above.

March 17 – Deadline for schools to submit the Letter of Intent to NYSED. NYSED collects the Letter of Intent and all information necessary to develop the allocation amounts for each eligible school that intends to participate.

March 25 – NYSED releases the application and school-level allocations to eligible schools that submitted a Letter of Intent. NYSED is required to release the application no later than 30 days after the State's application to USDOE is approved.

April 23 – Deadline for schools to submit the application to NYSED. Applications will describe the planned use(s) of the EANS funds. Eligible uses of the EANS funds are described further below.

May 23 (or Earlier) – NYSED will review the applications and notify schools of their application's approval status. NYSED is required to approve or deny a school's application no later than 30 days after receipt of the application.

May 23 (or Earlier) - August 23 – Schools request reimbursement for qualified purchases and/or request services to be provided. As NYSED or its administrator reviews the request for reim