



CARES, GEER, and ESSER: Making Sense of It All

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June, 2020

Objectives

- Participants have an improved understanding of how GEER and ESSER funds are prioritized in Minnesota.
- Participants know how applications for GEER and ESSER work.
- Participants know what they can do with GEER, ESSER formula, and ESSER grant funds.



Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity

1. **Prioritize equity.**
2. **Start from within.**
3. **Measure what matters.**
4. **Go local.**
5. **Follow the money.**
6. **Start early.**
7. **Monitor implementation of standards.**
8. **Value people.**
9. **Improve conditions for learning.**
10. **Give students options.**

What's My Current Situation?

What have emerged as **the greatest general needs** in your district or charter school?

What needs are you seeing among **particular groups** that are **different from or more intense than the general needs**?

Consider demographic groups as well as students/families with specific situational characteristics in common, e.g. a family member is essential personnel, family income has dropped, etc.

First Objective

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The CARES Act

(CARES = Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security)

\$1200/
\$2400
payments
to every
house-
hold

\$600/
week
boost to
unemploy-
ment
checks

Education Stabilization Fund

GEER

The Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

ESSER

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

HEER

The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund

Small
business
loans

...etc.

ESSER and GEER

GEER

The Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

Minnesota: **\$43.4 million**

Priorities set by the Governor's Office.

ESSER

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

Minnesota: **\$140.1 million**

90% formula to districts based on their Title I, Part A allocations.

9.5% state-directed grants to districts.

0.5% for state administration.

Minnesota Priorities

GEER

The Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund

Minnesota: **\$43.4 million**

Technology Access

- Broadband
- Hotspots
- Devices for students

Summer School Programming

- Increase staffing to reach a student-to-teacher ratio of 6 to 1
- Transportation

ESSER

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

Minnesota: **\$140.1 million**

90% formula to districts

- Keep students healthy and connected to learning
- Other local needs

9.5% state-directed grants to districts

- Summer school programming needs
- Mental health supports
- Historically underserved populations

Second Objective

- Participants have an improved understanding of how GEER and ESSER funds are prioritized in Minnesota.
- **Participants know how applications for GEER and ESSER work.**
- Participants know what they can do with GEER, ESSER formula, and ESSER grant funds.

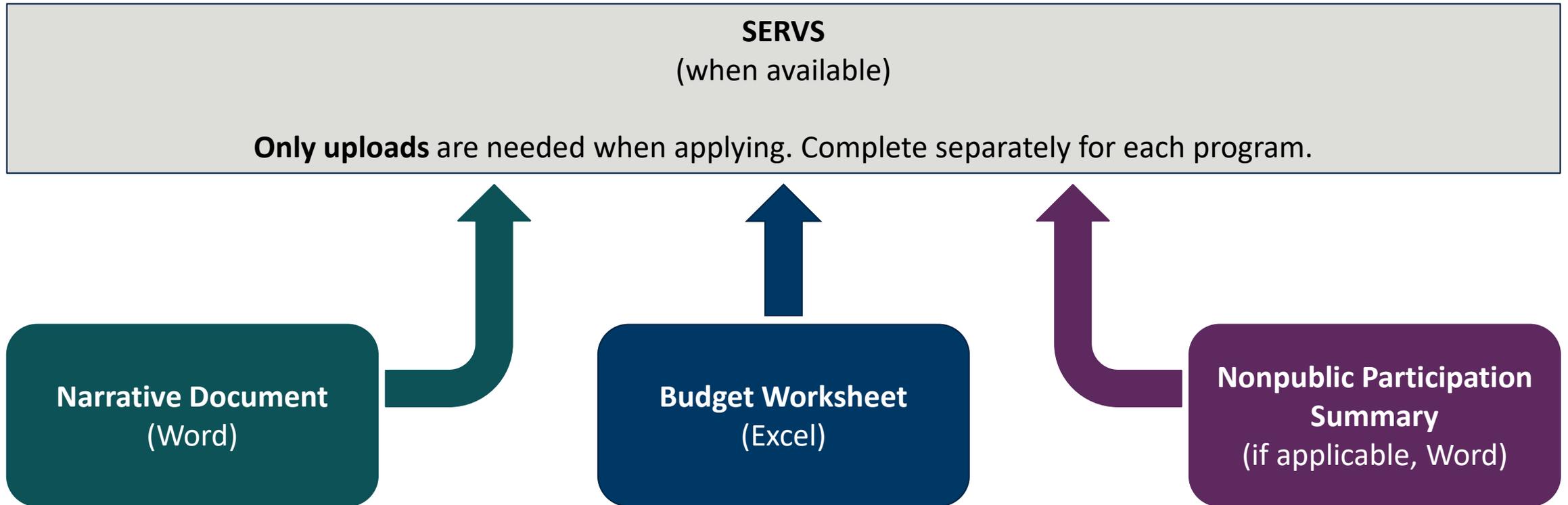
How Do I Apply?

- Each program is separate, but the process is similar.
- To apply, upload a narrative document, budget worksheet and, if applicable, nonpublic participation summary in SERVS.
 - The budget worksheet will help calculate nonpublic share, if applicable.
- Districts with approved plans will be able to draw funds beginning in July.
- Districts will be able to amend plans, likely on a quarterly basis.
- If applicable for your district, affirmations of consultation with nonpublic schools will be collected in the fall.
- Additional tools (e.g. surveys, SERVS uploads, etc.) may be used to assist in monitoring.

The Application Materials

- Available on the CARES Act funds web page now while SERVS is prepared.
 - MDE home page > COVID-19 Updates web page > CARES Act Funding Information
 - education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/cares
- Narrative document.
- Budget worksheet.
- Nonpublic participation summary.

The Application Process



...and that's the application process.

A Note on Nonpublic Calculations

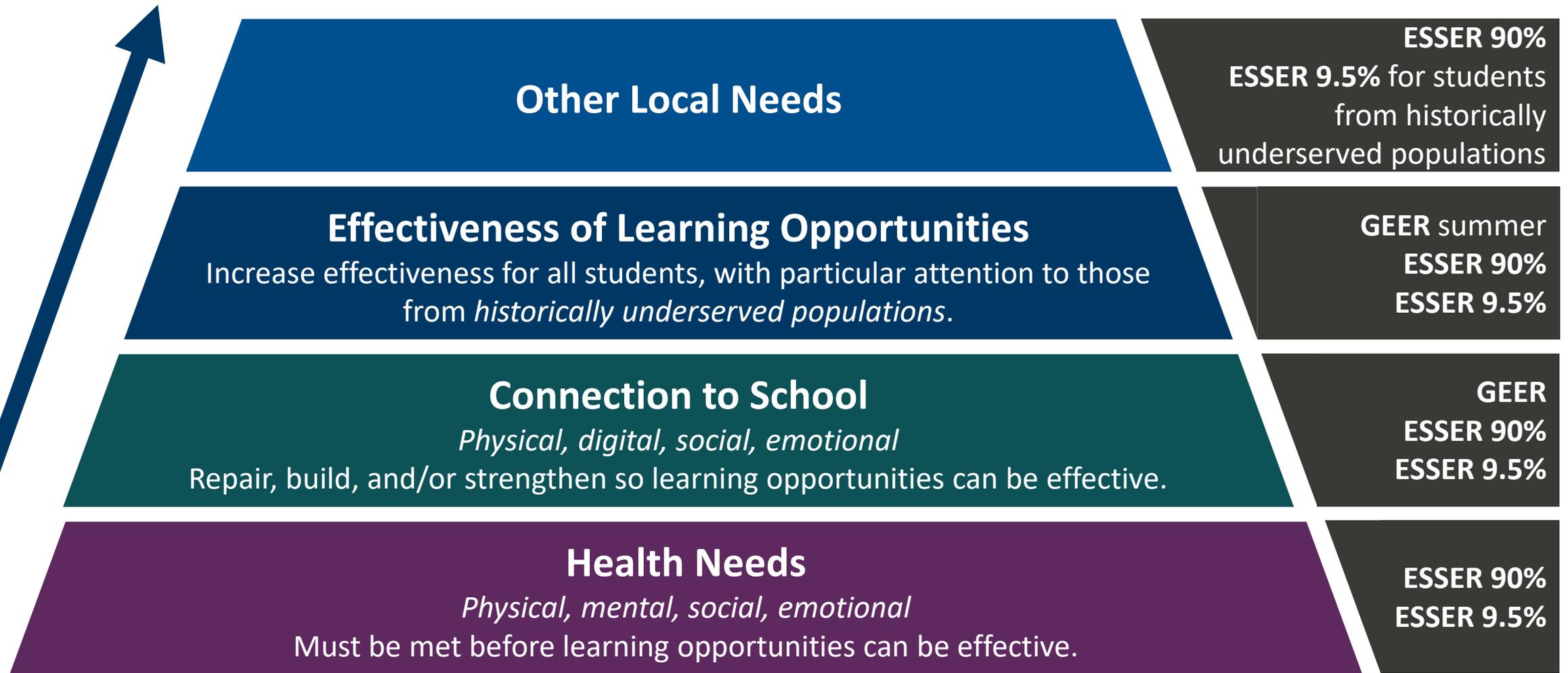
- Minnesota is currently awaiting final resolution of the interpretation of the CARES Act's language about calculating the equitable share of funds for nonpublic schools.
- The budget worksheet for each application asks for several pieces of information that may end up used, depending on the final resolution.
- Based on that information, the worksheet calculates:
 - The minimum amount of funds known to go to nonpublic schools.
 - An “escrow” amount to leave unbudgeted and undrawn.
- Once a final interpretation has been determined, a final budget worksheet will be made available.

- Barring unforeseen complications, SERVS live by end of June.
- Ability to draw funds beginning in July.
- Quarterly amendment opportunities beginning in September, 2020.
- If you want to draw funds to cover expenses dating back to March 13, 2020, you must have an approved application by November 30, 2020 (the first amendment window).
- Final application deadline: May 1, 2021.

Who Should Be Involved?

- Each district or charter school should create a team with **multiple perspectives**.
- The funds for each program are subject to the same calculation of **equitable share for nonpublic schools** as Title I, Part A. Districts should consult with participating nonpublic schools accordingly.
- For districts and charter schools required to conduct tribal consultation under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), make a good-faith effort to **consult tribal nations and Indian education parent advisory committees**. (Not a strict legal requirement under GEER or ESSER, but strongly recommended.)

Meet Foundational Needs First



Third Objective

- Participants have an improved understanding of how GEER and ESSER funds are prioritized in Minnesota.
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- **Participants know what they can do with GEER, ESSER formula, and ESSER grant funds.**

GEER: Who is Eligible?

- **Any district or charter school** is eligible for one of these grants.
- Note: Some GEER funds are being used for competitive grant programs.

GEER: What Can I Fund?

Your GEER allocation can be used for needs in the following areas from **March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2022**:

1. Technology

- a. Broadband
- b. Hotspots
- c. Devices

2. Summer school programming

- a. Increasing staff to achieve a 6 to 1 student-to-teacher ratio
- b. Transportation

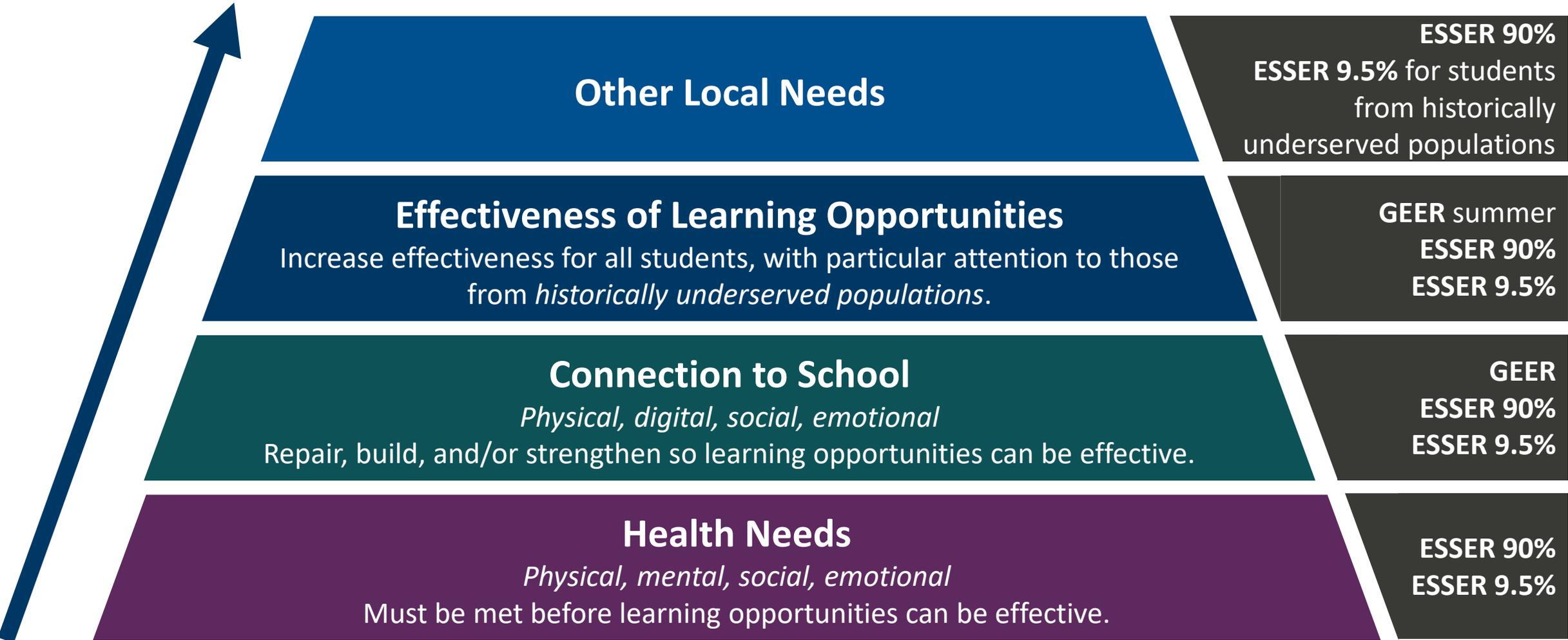
90% Formula Grants: Who is Eligible?

- **Any district or charter school that receives Title I, Part A funds** is eligible for one of these grants.
- Each eligible district or charter school will receive an allocation roughly **80% the size of their existing Title I, Part A allocation**.
- Nonpublic school equitable share will be distributed to participating nonpublic schools, so allocations depend on nonpublic school participation (past participation in Federal education programs is not required).
- These are **additional funds**—they do not replace any existing funding source.

90% Formula Grants: What Can I Fund?

- Allowable uses:
 - Anything from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), McKinney-Vento, or Carl Perkins.
 - Anything that supports students affected by the coronavirus or the public health response, especially those from historically underserved populations.
 - Anything that helps coordinate the response to the coronavirus.
 - Anything that helps maintain continuity of operations and services.
- Can be used for coronavirus-related expenses from **March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2022.**

Foundational Needs, Revisited



90% Formula Grants: What Else Should I Consider?

- Districts are strongly encouraged to plan uses of these funds for **the entire life cycle of the grant** (March of 2020 through September of 2022).
- These funds are **not** subject to supplement-not-supplant rules.
- Understand what you'll be using GEER and ESSER 9.5% state-directed grants to fund.

ESSER 9.5% Grants: Who Is Eligible?

Allocations are based on a three-step process:

1. Any **district or charter school not eligible for Title I, Part A** receives funds based on the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals. (This includes intermediate districts, new charter schools, and other situations.)
2. Any district or charter school not receiving \$10,000 through its 90% allocation or Step 1 above receives the **funds necessary to reach \$10,000**.
3. The remaining funds are distributed to districts and charter schools whose share of other ESSER funds (90% allocation, Steps 1 and 2) is less than their share of students from historically underserved populations.

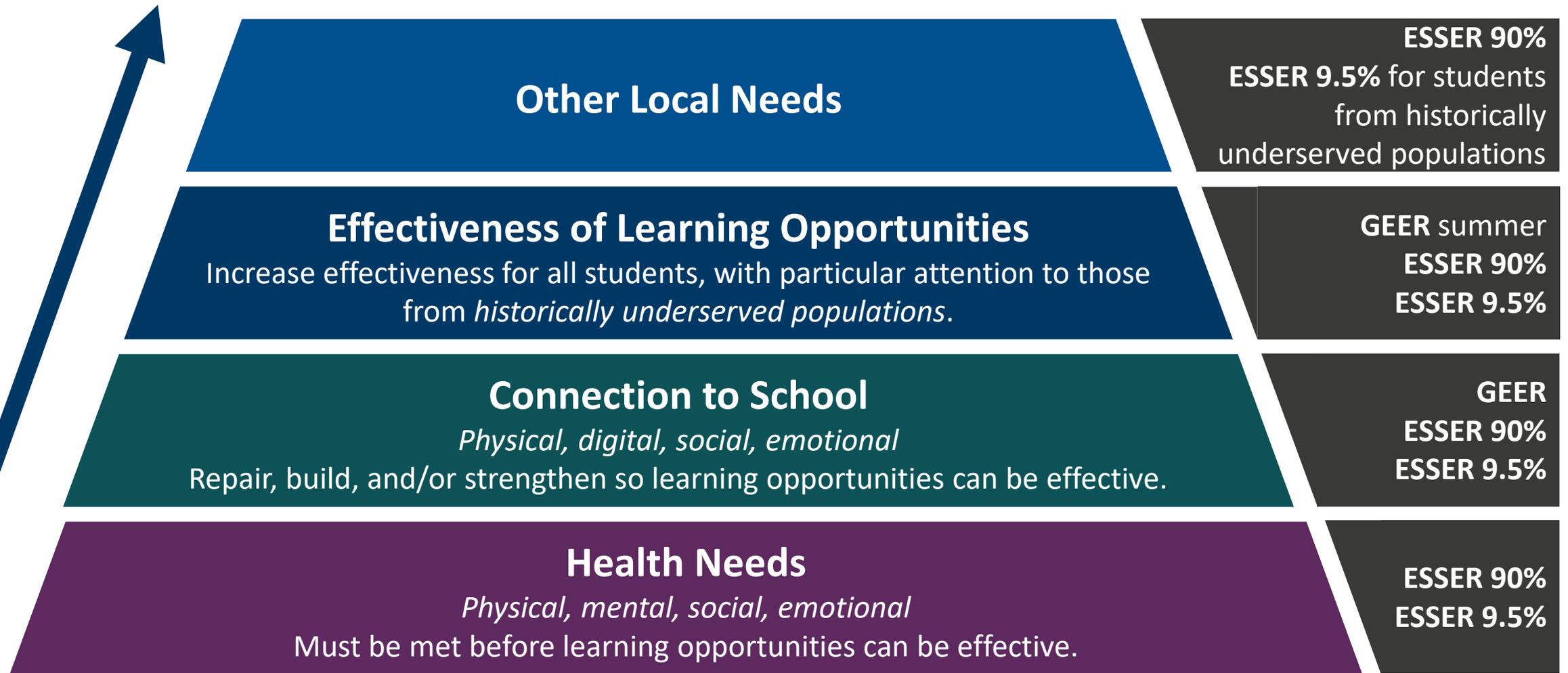
ESSER 9.5% Grants: What Can I Fund?

Your allocation can be used to meet:

1. Any **summer school programming needs** not met with GEER funds.
2. Students', families', and staff's **mental health needs**, once summer learning needs are met. Seek culturally specific mental health services.
3. The specific needs of **historically underserved populations** in your district or charter school, once technology, summer school programming, and mental health needs are met.

Funds can be used for **expenditures from March 13, 2020 through September 30, 2022.**

Foundational Needs, Revisited Again



Reflection Questions

Which **historically underserved populations** in your community face the greatest needs right now?

What do you expect your **GEER funds** will be used for?

What do you think your **ESSER 90% formula allocation** (if you receive one) could best be used for?

What do you think your **ESSER 9.5% state-directed grant** (if you receive one) could best be used for?

Who else should you involve in **planning and decision-making**?

Thank you!

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