

January 14, 2021
Via e-mail

The Honorable Tony Evers
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 7863
Madison Wisconsin 53703

RE: Emergency Assistance to Non-public Schools (EANS) Program under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)

Dear Governor Evers,

Thank you for all you and your staff are doing to navigate our state through this unprecedented time. We know the mantle of leadership is heavy. Like you, our schools continue to persevere through the host of challenges our teachers and staffs, students, and families have faced during the coronavirus pandemic. We strive to move forward with optimism, especially with the advent of new vaccines.

We are also thankful for the forthcoming aid through the \$900 billion Coronavirus relief package in the recent congressional Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act). Therein, a new appropriation has been made through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) for \$2.75 billion specifically set aside for nonpublic schools. The Program is entitled the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) Program. Wisconsin's allocation is \$77,492,001.

This program was made available by the United States Department of Education (USDE) on January 8, 2021. It is our understanding that **the governor of each state must opt-in to this funding** through a request to USDE. *We write today to formally request that you make that election for Wisconsin's nonpublic schools and students.*

Further, when Wisconsin does receive the funding set aside for nonpublic schools, WCRIS suggests the following:

- Identify fiscal agents that have experience working with private schools to maintain control of funds (CESA 6 or CESA Purchasing);
- Have a simple form to participate;
- Distribute funds based on enrollment with a weighting factor for poverty. All schools have been impacted;
- Poverty counts should not be focused, or not solely focused, on Title I data because it is incomplete. Some schools may have students in poverty but don't or can't participate in Title I (e.g. high schools when they are not served through Title I by their LEAs), and;
- Allow for all uses as permitted by the law.

We are thankful that with this appropriation, Congress has recognized that the pandemic has greatly affected all students, both public and private. The set-aside

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Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
South Wisconsin District

Wisconsin Association
of Independent Schools

Wisconsin Conference
of Seventh Day Adventists

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod
Northern Wisconsin District

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod
Western Wisconsin District

Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod
Southeastern Wisconsin
District

Associate Members

PHONE
(608) 287-1224

E-MAIL
wcris.staff@wcris.org

WEBSITE
www.wcris.org

ADDRESS
110 East Main Street
Suite 802
Madison, WI 53703

provided for nonpublic schools in the recent aid package is a historic recognition of the part we play in our nation's economy and educational infrastructure.

We thank you in advance for your crucial role in executing Congress's assistance for our schools and students, and urge you to act as quickly as possible so the aid flows, as it's intended, to our students and schools and across the state's economy.

Sincerely,



Sharon L. Schmeling
Executive Director

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