

**APPROVED**

**AUGUST 10, 2021**

Item #C-5  
August 10, 2021

**GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF (GEER) FUND  
FOR ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY  
FISCAL YEAR 2022 ALLOCATION**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** Of the total \$23.5 million higher education allocation of federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund \$250,000 was set aside for the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA), to help defray losses experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is available from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), passed on December 27 as the second COVID-19 relief package.

This GEER funding is in addition to the funding provided to IMSA from the CARES Act GEER program.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the allocation of \$250,000 from the CRSSA allocation of the GEER fund to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy to help address some of the problems they experienced because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY EDUCATION RELIEF (GEER) FUND  
FOR ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY  
FISCAL YEAR 2022 ALLOCATION**

Under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, the U.S. Department of Education awarded funding to Governors for the purpose of providing educational institutions emergency assistance as a result of the novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). These federal funds are authorized by Section 18002 of Division B of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), Public Law No. 116-260 (December 27, 2020), and subject to all other applicable laws. The intent of these GEER monies is to support the ability of the institutions to continue to provide educational services and the ongoing functionality of the institution. The provisions of CRRSA for GEER funding are the same as they were for the CARES Act GEER funding.

IMSA has experienced a significant financial impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, estimated at \$2.5 million. This included \$425,700 in refunds they had to issue, \$209,600 in additional costs, and \$1,890,200 in lost revenues.

To address this issue, the Governor has allocated a portion of the GEER funding to IMSA. In the initial allocation of GEER funding provided under the CARES Act was used to close digital equity gaps through the purchase of laptops, tablets, and associated accessories as well as equipment and mobile distance learning resources to enhance remote learning capabilities. It also was used to advance equity and academic initiatives via the incorporation of a Learning Management System, associated cloud software, virtual lab interfaces and professional development of teachers and staff, rooted in cultural competency, to address learning needs of students.

An additional \$250,000 has been set-aside to support IMSA through CRRSA GEER funding.

**Recommendation**

The staff recommends the adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the allocation of \$250,000 in funds from the Governor's Emergency Educational Relief (GEER) program, available through Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.*