



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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MEMORANDUM

TO: South Dakota Legislators

FROM: Tiffany Sanderson, Senior Policy Advisor 
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CC: Dr. Ben Jones, Legislative Research Council Staff, Governor's Office Staff

DATE: May 27, 2020

RE: Education Funding through the CARES Act

Overview

South Dakota will receive approximately **\$68 million** in grant funding for K-12 and higher education in response to COVID-19. The education funds detailed in this memo are *in addition to* the \$1.25 billion in "Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)" that the state received from the U.S. Treasury.

The state has considered all available federal grants and their potential uses to provide schools as much flexibility as possible as they address their needs and costs related to COVID-19.

Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) Funds

South Dakota's 10 public colleges and universities received a total of **\$19 million** directly this spring. Half of the funds were granted to students for attendance-related expenses like food, housing, technology, healthcare, and childcare.

The other half of the funds can be used to defray campus expenses due to COVID-19. As our colleges and universities moved to online instruction this spring, they reimbursed students for things like unused food plans, housing, parking, and, in limited cases, tuition. The federal funds they received will be used to fill in those reimbursements and to cover costs for technology and connectivity for online instruction.