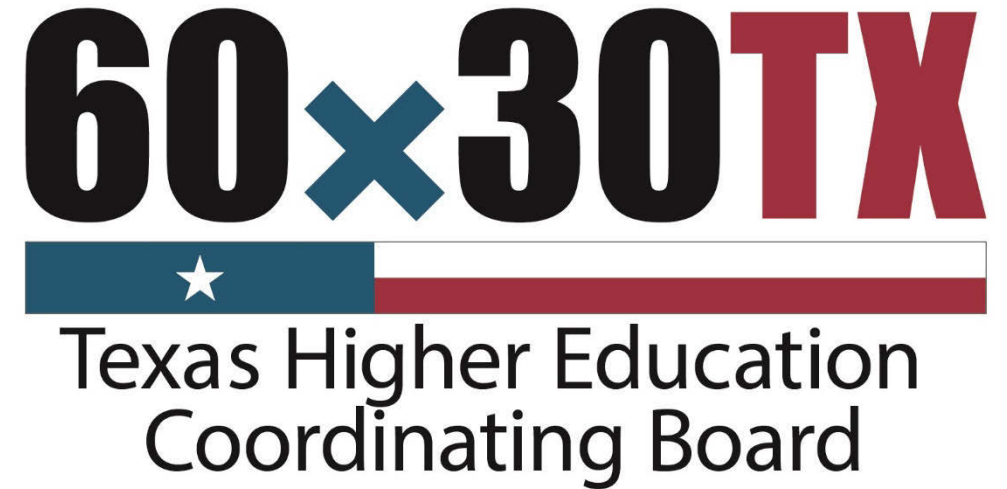


Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)

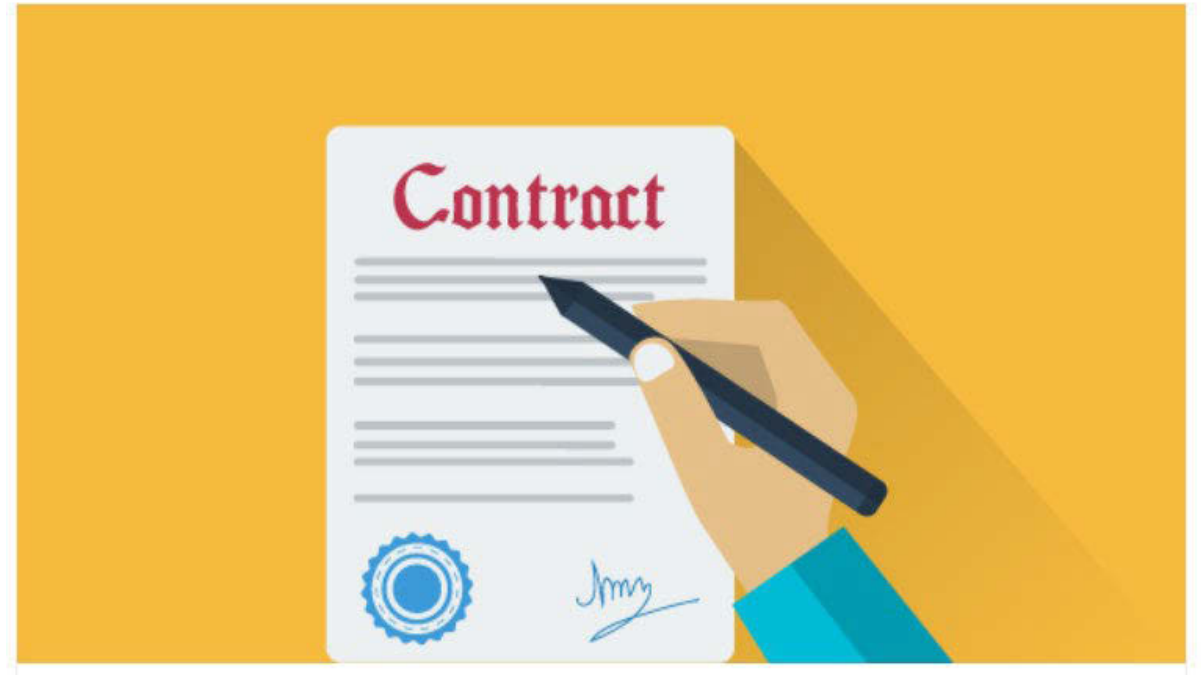
DeChà Reid and Leah Smalley
Student Financial Aid Programs
October 15, 2020



GEER Contract

Contract highlights:

- Eligibility requirements
- Reporting
- Allocation amounts
- Deadline to use funding



Agenda



Eligibility Criteria

Awarding Funds

Reporting

Common Questions

Eligibility Criteria

Two Types of GEER Funding Available

Public Institutions ONLY: GEER provides FY 2021 funding for Emergency Educational Grants (EEG).

Public and Private/Independent Institutions: GEER provides additional funds for the FY 2021 TEXAS Grant, TEOG, and TEG programs.

GEER Emergency Educational Grants

- Emergency Educational Grants provide financial relief to victims of the pandemic emergency through federally funded educational grants that keep Texans on track to attaining high-value educational credentials.
- Institutions have until **Nov. 2, 2020**, to disburse all GEER funding for Emergency Educational Grants to eligible students.
- Any unexpended Emergency Educational Grant funds must be returned to the THECB by **Nov. 16, 2020**.

NOTE: Emergency Educational Grant GEER funding is separate from the state grants GEER funding; institutions may NOT transfer funding between the two allocations.

GEER Emergency Educational Grants

Highlights:

- Funds can only be used for a single semester.
- Recipients must be Title IV eligible.
- Emergency grant has specific eligibility requirements written into the contract.
- **Unallowable expenses:** An institution is prohibited from using funds for administration costs.

GEER Funding for State Grants

Highlights:

- Students must meet all state grant eligibility requirements **AND** be Title IV eligible.
- Unlike the Emergency Educational Grant funding, these funds can be used through **Feb. 1, 2021**.
- Any unexpended funds must be returned to the THECB by **Feb. 15, 2021**.

Eligible Students Must:

Emergency Educational Grant

- Be a Texas resident
- Have filed a 2020-21 FAFSA and be eligible for Title IV
- Demonstrate financial need
- Be financially impacted by COVID-19
- Be enrolled in coursework leading to an associate, bachelor's, or undergraduate certificate program; AND
 - have graduated from high school between September 1, 2019, and August 31, 2020; or
 - have been enrolled in coursework at an eligible institution during the 2019-20 academic year.

State Grants (TEXAS Grant, TEOG, TEG)

- Meet all program requirements outlined in the statute and program rules. Reference the following 2020-21 guidelines:
 - [TEXAS Grant](#)
 - [TEOG](#)
 - [TEG](#)

NOTE: An eligible student must have filed a 2020-21 FAFSA and be eligible for Title IV.

Awarding Funds

Awarding Funds

Emergency Educational Grant

No grant exceeds the least of:

- \$2,500;
- The student's financial need minus all gift aid, as defined by Board rules, the student has been **offered at the time the EEG is offered;**
- The sum of the student's tuition, fees, and supplemental expenses minus all gift aid the student has been offered at the time the program grant is offered. Supplemental expenses are defined as an estimate of course materials determined by the institution that is not to exceed \$500.

NOTE: EEG funding must supplement, and not replace, gift aid received by the student for educational expenses.

State Grants (TEXAS Grant, TEOG, TEG)

- Institutions should use the same packaging and awarding methodology as for any other eligible state grant recipient.

Reporting

GEER Monthly Report

Each institution **must** provide a GEER monthly report to the THECB on the first of each month, or the first working day thereafter if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

NOTE: The THECB has provided a reporting template that institutions must use.

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GEER State Grant and Emergency Educational Grant

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) recently received \$57 million through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to support the TEXAS Grant, Texas Educational Opportunity Grant, and Tuition Equalization Grant programs and \$46.5 million in GEER Funds to support Emergency Educational Grants.

For questions, please email DeCha Reid at DeCha.Reid@higher.ed.texas.gov.

Monthly Reporting Requirements

Each institution must provide the enclosed reports to the THECB on the **first of each month**, or the first working day thereafter if it falls on a weekend or holiday, beginning **Oct. 1, 2020**.

- [Emergency Educational Grant Monthly Report \(public institutions only\)](#)
- [State Aid Programs Monthly Report \(public and private institutions\)](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

General GEER Contract Questions

± Does the Comptroller's FPP A.043 requirement to collect vendor information apply to students receiving TEXAS Grants or Emergency Educational Grants funded through the institution's GEER allocations? (Added 9/25/2020)

± Sections 7.16 (public institutions) and 7.17 (private institutions) of the "Grant Agreement Using GEER Federal Funds" indicates, "all employees of Grantee shall be a minimum of 18 years of age and experienced in the type of work to be performed." We often have first-year students under the age of 18 who work on campus. Does this impact our ability to conform with the GEER agreement? (Added 9/25/2020)

Report Requirements

EEG Program:

- YTD total number of students who have received an Emergency Educational Grant funded by GEER
- YTD total **amount** of GEER funding disbursed to students for Emergency Educational Grants

Upcoming Report Deadline:

- **Nov. 2, 2020**



Emergency Educational Grant GEER Monthly Report

Public Institutions Only

Purpose

The Emergency Educational Grant - GEER Monthly Report collects monthly data from public institutions that received Emergency Educational Grants through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund.

Requirements

Beginning October 1, 2020, institutions must submit this form to report:

- Year-to-date total number of students who have received an Emergency Educational Grant funded by GEER
- Year-to-date total amount of GEER funding disbursed to students through Emergency Educational Grants

Institutions are required to submit this form on the first of each month, or the first working day thereafter if it falls on a weekend or holiday. Institutions have until November 2, 2020, to disburse these funds. Any unexpended funds must be returned to the THECB by November 16, 2020.

NOTE: At the end of the fall semester, institutions will be required to submit a closeout report listing all students awarded an Emergency Educational Grant funded by GEER. Reporting instructions will be provided by the THECB.

Institution Contact Information (Public Schools Only)			
Institution name:		FICE code:	
Certifying Official (Director of Financial Aid or Equivalent)			
First name:	Last name:	Phone:	
Title:		Email:	

Emergency Educational Grant — Monthly Reporting				Select Month
Year-to-date Student count		Year-to-date Funds disbursed		

Institution Authorization	
By submitting this form, I certify that the amounts reported on this form are accurate as of today's date. I further understand the importance of the accuracy of this information, as it may be reported to the Texas Legislature and is subject to review during a program audit.	
Certifying Official Signature:	Date:
To send the completed form, select the blue SUBMIT button:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An email with this form attached will open in a new window.• Add your six-digit FICE code in the email subject line. Example: 012345_File Name• Be sure to select the SEND button to email the report.	
If you have questions, email DeCha.Reid@highered.texas.gov .	
<div>SUBMIT</div> <p>If you are unable to SUBMIT this form, save the signed .pdf file and email as an attachment to: FASOperations@highered.texas.gov</p>	

Report Requirements

State Grants Report Requirements:

- YTD total number of students who have received a state grant funded by GEER
- YTD total **amount** of GEER funding disbursed to students for state grants

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Nov. 2, 2020
- Dec. 1, 2020
- Jan. 4, 2021
- Feb. 1, 2021

Purpose

The TEXAS Grant, TEOG, TEG - GEER Monthly Report collects monthly data from institutions that received Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds for the following state grant programs: Toward Excellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant; Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG); and Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG).

Requirements

Beginning October 1, 2020, institutions must submit this form to report:

- Year-to-date total number of students who have received a TEXAS Grant, TEOG, or TEG funded by GEER
- Year-to-date total amount of GEER funding disbursed to students through TEXAS Grant, TEOG, or TEG

Institutions are required to submit this form on the first of each month, or the first working day thereafter if it falls on a weekend or holiday. Institutions have until February 1, 2021, to disburse these funds. Any unexpended funds must be returned to the THECB by February 15, 2021.

NOTE: At the end of FY 2021, institutions will be required to submit an end-of-year State Grant GEER closeout report in addition to reporting students on the annual Financial Aid Database (FAD) file. Reporting instructions will be provided by the THECB.

Institution Contact Information			
Institution name:		FICE code:	
Certifying Official (Director of Financial Aid or Equivalent)			
First name:	Last name:		Phone:
Title:	Email:		

TEXAS Grant, TEOG, and TEG funded by GEER — Monthly Reporting		Select Month	
Year-to-date Student count		Year-to-date Funds disbursed	

Institution Authorization	
By submitting this form, I certify that the amounts reported on this form are accurate as of today's date. I further understand the importance of the accuracy of this information, as it may be reported to the Texas Legislature and is subject to review during a program audit.	
Certifying Official Signature:	Date:
To send the completed form, select the blue SUBMIT button: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An email with this form attached will open in a new window.• Add your six-digit FICE code in the email subject line. Example: 012345_File Name• Be sure to select the SEND button to email the report. If you have questions, email DeCha.Reid@highered.texas.gov .	
<div>SUBMIT</div> <p>If you are unable to SUBMIT this form, save the signed .pdf file and email as an attachment to: FASOperations@highered.texas.gov</p>	

Common Questions

Common Questions

Emergency Educational Grants

- **Verification**

Does a student have to be verified to receive funds?

- **Enrollment hours**

Does a student need to meet a minimum enrollment requirement to qualify?

- **Awarding**

If the student received NO gift aid and only student loans paid their tuition and they still have unmet need, does this student qualify even though their tuition is paid by student loans? What about in the case the student declines their student loans and sets up a payment plan?

State Grant Programs

- **Initial/Renewal students**

If a student is given a state grant from GEER, can he/she receive a renewal next year?

GEER FAQ Webpage

Categories include:

- Contract Questions
- Funding for TEXAS Grant, TEOG, and TEG
- Funding for Emergency Educational Grants

GEER State Grant and Emergency Educational Grant FAQ's

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) recently received \$57 million through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund to support the TEXAS Grant, Texas Educational Opportunity Grant, and Tuition Equalization Grant programs and \$46.5 million in GEER Funds to support Emergency Educational Grants.

General GEER Contract Questions

- + Are electronic signatures allowed when executing the grant contract?
- + Does interest earned on these federal GEER funds need to be tracked and remitted back to the Coordinating Board?
- + May an institution use GEER funding to cover administrative expenses?
- + The e-mail accompanying our GEER contract indicated that the following federal forms must be signed and returned with the grant contracts: Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension, Certification Regarding Lobbying, Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Certification. There is no signature line on the debarment and suspension form. Must it be returned with the contract? (Added 9/1/2020)
- + Will GEER-funded grants be reported on the FAD? (Added 9/1/2020)

GEER Funding for TEXAS Grant/TEOG/TEG

- + Are any additional restrictions in place for the GEER funds provided for TEXAS Grants/TEOG/TEG?
- + Does the "target" grant level apply to TEXAS Grants funded through the GEER allocation (Added 9/1/2020)
- + May an institution wait until spring semester to use their allocation of GEER funding designated for TEXAS Grant/TEOG/TEG? (Added 9/1/2020)
- + Must an institution use a separate account for their allocation of GEER funding designated for TEXAS Grant or TEOG, or may they use their existing accounts? (Added 9/1/2020)

GEER Funding for Emergency Educational Grants

- + Are private and independent institutions eligible to participate in the Emergency Educational Grant? (Added 9/1/2020)
- + The Emergency Educational Grant section of the grant contract references definitions from Board rules. Where can we find these definitions (Added 9/1/2020)
- + An eligibility criterion for the Emergency Educational Grant states that recipients must "have suffered a financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic as determined by the institution." May an institution set its own procedures for determining that a student has met this criterion?
- + May an institution reserve some of the Emergency Educational Grant funding to use during the spring semester. (Revised 9/1/2020)
- + May an institution use Emergency Educational Grant funding to assist students with prior term balances?
- + The Emergency Educational Grant requires that we inform students of the source of and reason for the grant, as well as a clear indication that the grant is for a single semester. May this information be provided electronically?
- + Since we will be receiving our GEER funding in one lump disbursement, does that mean we can use the GEER funding for either TEXAS Grants/TEOG or Emergency Educational Grants?
- + May an institution use Emergency Educational Grants toward the matching requirement for TEXAS Grants/TEOG?
- + May a student who already received gift aid in excess of tuition, fees, and supplemental expenses receive Emergency Educational Grants. (Added 9/1/2020)
- + Are Emergency Educational Grants considered estimated financial assistance? (Added 9/1/2020)

Questions? Email DeChà Reid directly at DeCha.Reid@highered.texas.gov

Contact Information and Feedback

Email: leah.smalley@highered.texas.gov
decha.reid@highered.texas.gov

Webcast Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/58YRM92>

Contact Us: <https://www1.highered.texas.gov/Apps/CRAFT/Home/Create>
(Select "Financial Aid Question" as the Contact Reason.)

Questions?