



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

December 18, 2019

The Honorable Mark Johnson
Superintendent of Public Instruction
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
6307 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6307

Dear Superintendent Johnson:

I am pleased to inform you that the U.S. Department of Education (Department) is making available to North Carolina an Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations grant award of \$3,395,009 to assist local educational agencies (LEAs) and non-public schools with expenses related to the restart of elementary and secondary schools affected by flooding and tornadoes from Hurricane Dorian in September 2019. These funds are awarded pursuant to the 2019 Immediate Aid to Restart School Operations program (2019 Restart), authorized by Title VIII of the *Additional Supplemental Appropriations for the Disaster Relief Act of 2019*, Pub. Law 116-20, enacted June 6, 2019 (Disaster Supplemental).

In general, the 2019 Restart program makes awards to eligible State education agencies (SEAs), which in turn provide assistance or services to LEAs and non-public schools, to help defray expenses related to the restart of operations in, the reopening of, and the re-enrollment of students in public and non-public elementary and secondary schools that serve an area affected by a covered disaster or emergency.

The Department reviewed the 2019 Restart applications for eligibility, completeness, accuracy, and allowability of proposed activities, and followed up with individualized questions for applicants. Additionally, States had the opportunity to provide updated data or amended applications by November 22, 2019.

In September 2019, the Department published a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the 2019 Restart application process. The notice indicated that the \$165 million made available through the Disaster Supplemental would be used to fund Restart and other authorized disaster recovery programs. Based on the total amounts requested by applicants under the full range of programs funded by the Disaster Supplemental and our assessment of their demonstrated needs, we noted the possibility that 2019 Restart awards would be adjusted downward to match available funds. We have completed the application review process for all programs and have determined that approved requests for 2019 Restart will be reduced by 25% because the aggregate of the approved requests for funding under the Disaster Supplemental exceeds the total appropriation of funds.

Based on our application review, the recommended award amount for North Carolina is \$4,526,678 and after the 25% ratable reduction the final award amount is \$3,395,009.

We understand that this reduced level of funding may require adjustments in your plans for addressing local disaster-related needs, but we hope the award for North Carolina, in concert with other Federal, State, and local resources, will make a significant contribution to restoring normal operations in elementary and secondary schools affected by the covered disaster or emergency.

We look forward to our continued work together. If you have any questions please write to the Disaster Recovery Unit's Restart Program Lead, Molly Budman at molly.budman@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank T. Brogan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "B".

Frank T. Brogan
Assistant Secretary of
Elementary and Secondary Education

Enclosures