

# 2021

# COVID Relief Funding for Educational Facilities (ESSER III Funds)

What we learned at ED Engage 7.0 (April 7, 2021)

## How Can Funds Be Used?

Up to 80% of the 2021 Covid Relief Funding (ESSER III funds) can be invested in your facilities for improvements to learning environments, to aid in the reduction of the spread of Covid-19 and other viruses. Districts must obligate ESSER III funds by September 30, 2024. According to the Iowa State Board of Education, funds may be used for a wide range of activities to address needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

## What Funds Are Available For Each District?

The following is a resource regarding the amount of funds available for each U.S. public school district:

<https://public.tableau.com/views/HR133ESSERStimulusAllocations/ESSERIII?:showVizHome=n&.embed=y#2>

## What Projects Qualify?

Our research shows that funds can be used for a variety of facility improvements including but not limited to:

**A** Repairing and improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards.

### Potential Opportunities

- Upgrading handwashing fixtures and hand sanitation stations;
- Improving controlled entries;
- Touchless technologies such as door hardware, light switches, and plumbing fixtures;
- Cafeteria, kitchen and servery improvements;
- Renovating libraries and shared learning spaces;
- Improving classrooms to enhance learning, connectivity and flexibility;
- Installation of distance and hybrid learning systems.

**B** Improving indoor air quality.

### Potential Opportunities

- Classroom air quality and ventilation systems;
- Cafeteria air quality and ventilation systems;
- Gymnasium, and multi-purpose room air quality and ventilation systems.



## What's Next?

We recommend the following actions as you move forward with your projects:



**Access** your facilities to determine capital improvement needs and schedule.



**Review** capital improvements and determine if they qualify for Covid Relief Funding.



**Consult** with your district resources for guidance, including the Iowa Department of Education.



**Document** every step of the process and projects through completion and close out.

## National Resources

**National Safe School Reopening Summit** (<https://web.cvent.com/event/8da3e1c7-f15c-4979-b2e9-f0490a589714/summary>)

**U.S. Department of Education** ([https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL\\_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf](https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/03/FINAL_ARP-ESSER-FACT-SHEET.pdf))

**Center for Disease Control** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>)

## Resources in Iowa

**Iowa Department of Education** (<https://educateiowa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-guidance-and-information>)

## Additional Resources

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