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 Ohio Department 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/ESSERIIIII?: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 your Regional Office 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)
Center for Disease Control   (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html)

Resources in Ohio

Ohio Department of Education   (http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Reset-and-Restart/CARES-Act-Funding)

Resources from ED Engage 7.0

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