

THE CENTER
FOR GREEN SCHOOLS



Global leader in advancing green schools,
providing school districts and education leaders with
resources and training to create
sustainable, healthy, resilient and equitable
learning environments.



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COVID-19 RELIEF

Bill	Passed	TOTAL Appropriation	PK-12 Public Education Allocation	% Funds to LEAs	Must obligate by
CARES Act (ESSER 1)	March 27, 2020	\$2.2 Trillion	\$13.5 Billion	90%	December 30, 2021*
CRRSAA (ESSER 2)	December 27, 2020	\$900 Billion	\$54.3 Billion	90%	September 30, 2022*
American Rescue Plan Act (ESSER 3)	March 11, 2021	\$1.9 Trillion	\$122.0 Billion	87.5%	September 30, 2023*

* The Tydings Amendment allows for one additional year for expenditure, making these dates September 30, 2022; September 30, 2023; and September 30, 2024

FIVE GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

How Districts Can Use Federal COVID Relief Funds to Advance Healthy, Green Schools



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 **UNDAUNTEDK12**
Climate-resilient schools and future-ready students

Healthy Schools Advance Student Learning and Success

Example of allowable spending:

Upgrade or replace HVAC systems



Replace fossil-fuel based heating system with heat pump technology that offers efficient heating and cooling



Efficient, Resilient Operations Save Money Today and Tomorrow

Example of allowable spending:

Replace broken or inoperable windows



Upgrade to high-performance windows that improve ventilation *and* building efficiency



Navigating a Changing World Requires Data and Planning

Example of allowable spending:

Expand data collection regimens to include ventilation rates



... but also include building-level energy use and emissions



A Shifting Economy and Climate Require New Teaching

Example of allowable spending:

Any activity authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)



Strengthen capabilities and enhance facilities to deliver outdoor education



Investing in Healthy, Green Schools is Central to Advancing Equity

Example of allowable spending:

Any activity authorized by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006

Develop and ensure equitable access to career and technical education to support student preparation for jobs in the clean energy economy



Credit: Strategic Energy Innovations

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How Districts Can Use Federal COVID Relief Funds to Advance Healthy, Green Schools



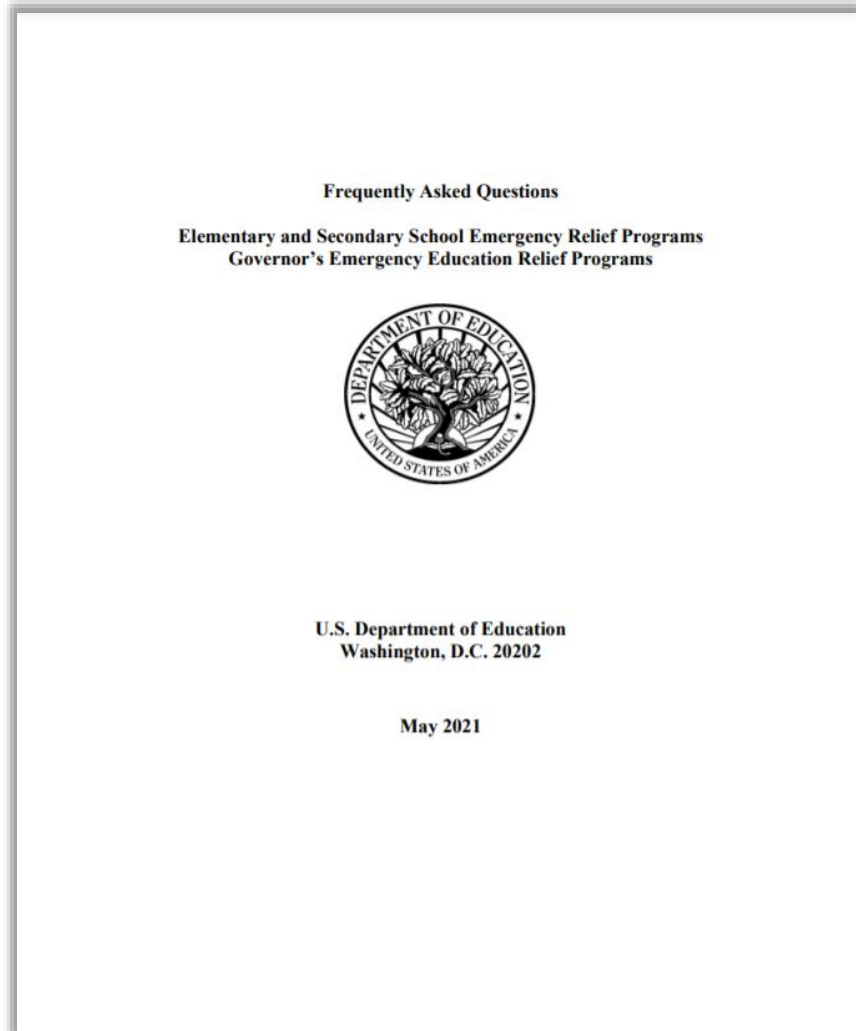
<https://www.usgbc.org/resources/five-guiding-principles>

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COVID-19 RELIEF



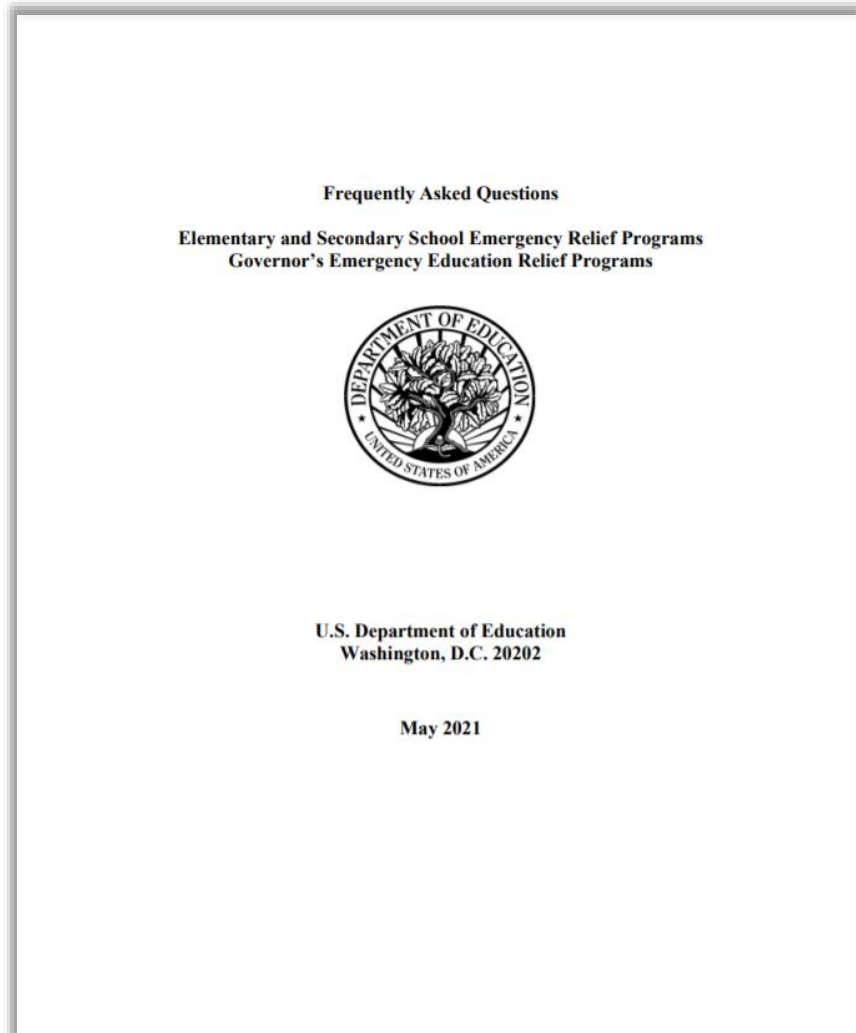
A-3. How may an LEA use ESSER funds?

[abbreviated]

An LEA may use ESSER funds for the broad range of activities listed in section 18003(d) of the CARES Act, section 313(d) of the CRRSA Act, and section 2001(e) of the ARP Act. Although the lists of allowable uses of funds are not identical, any of the ESSER funds (ESSER I, ESSER II, or ARP ESSER) may be used to support all of the allowable uses of funds listed in any of the ESSER programs.

9. Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of LEAs.
10. Training and professional development for staff of the LEA on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.
17. School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
18. Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.
19. Developing strategies and implementing public health protocols including, to the greatest extent practicable, policies in line with guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities to effectively maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff.
20. Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in the LEA and continuing to employ existing staff of the LEA.

COVID-19 RELIEF



B-6. May ESSER and GEER funds be used for construction?

[abbreviated]

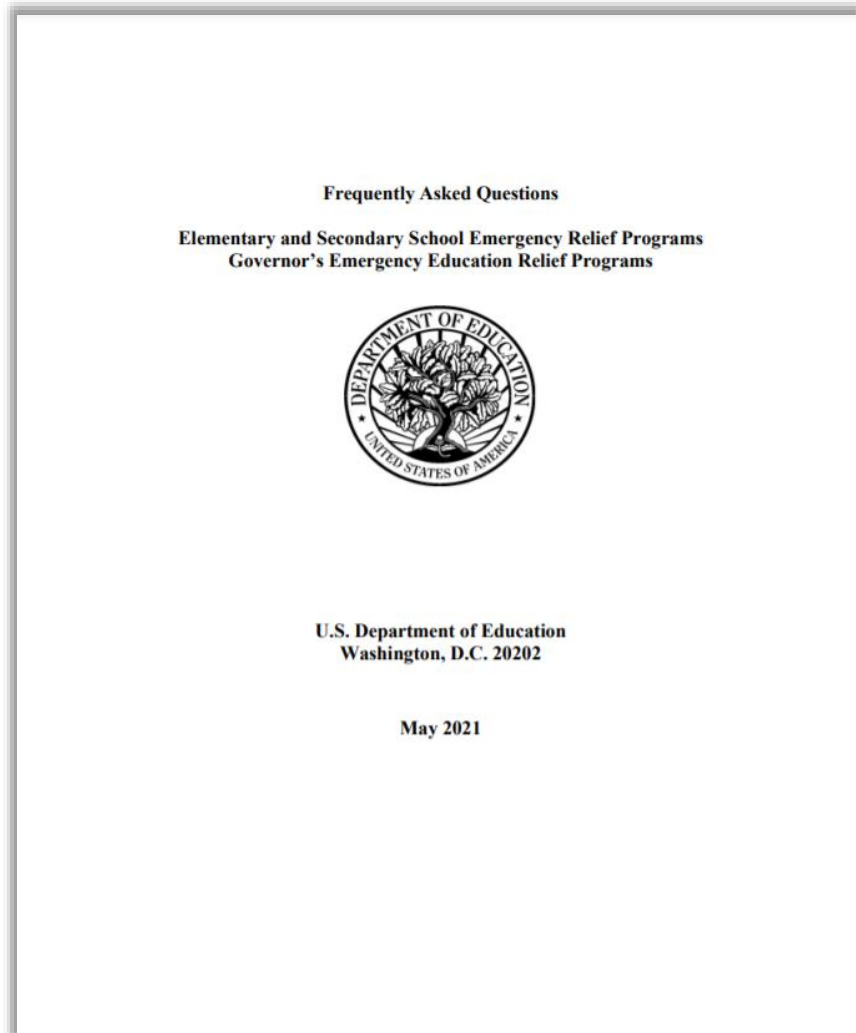
Yes. Construction is authorized under Title VII of the ESEA (Impact Aid) and therefore is an allowable use of GEER and ESSER funds [...]. The broad Impact Aid definition of “construction” includes new construction as well as remodeling, alterations, renovations, and repairs under which many activities related to COVID-19 would likely fall. However, the Department discourages LEAs from using ESSER and GEER funds for new construction because this use of funds may limit an LEA’s ability to support other essential needs or initiatives. Remodeling, renovation, and new construction are often time-consuming, which may not be workable under the shorter timelines associated with ESSER and GEER funds.

These types of activities are also subject to a number of additional Federal requirements, as detailed below. While construction is generally allowable, it is the responsibility of a Governor, SEA, LEA, or other subgrantee to assure that costs:

- 1) comply with the Cost Principles in 2 CFR Part 200, subpart E (e.g., the cost must be “necessary and reasonable” (2 CFR §§ 200.403-200.404));
- 2) meet the overall purpose of the CARES Act, CRRSA Act, or ARP Act programs, which is “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to” COVID-19; and
- 3) are consistent with the proper and efficient administration of those programs.

Under these general principles, any construction activities, including renovations or remodeling, that are necessary for an LEA to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 could be permissible, though the burden remains on grantees and subgrantees to maintain the appropriate documentation that supports the expenditure.

COVID-19 RELIEF



B-7. May ESSER and GEER funds be used for renovation, including for such projects as making improvements to a school facility to improve indoor air quality (such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems), and projects that would promote social distancing and safe in-person instruction?

[abbreviated]

Yes. ESSER and GEER funds may be used to make necessary improvements, for example to improve air quality and support social distancing, so that teachers and students may safely return to and continue in-person instruction. As is the case with all activities charged to ESSER or GEER, costs must be reasonable and necessary to meet the overall purpose of the program, which is “to prevent, prepare for, and respond to” COVID-19.

Therefore, renovation or remodeling activities that are necessary for an LEA to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 would be permissible. [...] This might also include, for example, as noted in [...] the ARP Act:

- School facility repairs and improvements to enable schools to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
- Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.

[...]