

## **CARES Act - Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund**

CARES Act ESSER funding can help K-12 schools maintain cleaner, healthier environments during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **What is the Cares Act ESSER Fund?**

[The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The purpose of the CARES Act is to provide states with funding to prevent, prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief \(ESSER\) Fund](#) is the portion of the CARES Act that awards grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency funds to address the impact of the coronavirus.

### **How much will my district receive?**

Congress has infused approximately \$13.2 billion into K-12 education to address the impact that the COVID-19 public health crisis has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the United States.

Funding will be distributed directly to (i) governors to support their state's K-12 student and school needs and (ii) SEAs and LEAs based on Title 1 proportions.

View State allocations [here](#).

Contact your specific SEA for information on how to apply for funds.

### **How can I use the funds?**

The ESSER Fund provides LEAs considerable flexibility in determining how best to use ESSER funds. A complete list of allowable uses of ESSER funds are outlined in the CARES Act (Sec. 18003(d)).

### **How will this funding impact school maintenance and operations?**

LEAs may use ESSER funds for personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and sanitizing materials, and similar supplies necessary to maintain school operations during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **What should I do?**

This funding offers an opportunity for you ensure your education facility is outfitted with hand wash stations and drinking water solutions that provide your students and faculty with cleaner, healthier water and sanitation sources.

[Explore Elkay's Health Smart products.](#)

#### Sources:

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/>  
<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/05/ESSER-Fund-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>