



GUIDELINES FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

Re-opening education

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Indoor spaces are where most learning and studying happens. And given the established benefits of in-person learning, students, teachers, and staff are eager to get back to school full time.

Investments in safe and healthy buildings, consistent with CDC and ASHRAE guidelines can help schools reopen and stay open during the pandemic. These same investments can help address aging infrastructure and help deliver improved learning environments long-term.

New Federal Funding for Education

The U.S. Congress has passed three pieces of legislation that provides a total of more than \$280 billion dollars of funding for educational institutions to respond to the pandemic and assist in re-opening our schools, colleges, and universities.

Recipients – Fund Name*	Federal COVID-19 Relief Funding for Education		
	CARES ACT (Mar 2020)	CRRSA (Dec 2020)	American Rescue Plan (Mar 2021)
Public K-12 - ESSER	\$13 billion	\$54 billion	\$123 billion
Higher Ed - HEER ¹	\$14 billion	\$22 billion	\$40 billion
Governors – GEER/EANS	\$3 billion	\$4 billion	\$3 billion
Totals²	\$31 billion	\$82 billion	\$165 billion

¹ HEER includes both Student Aid and Institutional portions

² Approximately 1% of total was allocated for specific uses not listed above

These funds will flow from the Department of Education and should be considered for the 2021-2022 budget cycle. There are many competing interests in this funding; thus, proposed facility improvements and funding requests should be made as soon as possible.

*ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief)
 LEA (Local Education Agency)
 HEER (Higher Education Emergency Relief)
 GEER (Governor's Emergency Education Relief)
 EANS (Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools)



Federal Funding

ESSER – State ED to LEAs (Districts)

HEER – Direct to Institutions of Higher Ed

GEER – Governors Educational entities including non-public



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Published guidelines emphasize **operational considerations**, **air quality strategies**, and **technologies**

Since the onset of the pandemic, the U.S. CDC, ASHRAE's Epidemic Task Force, government entities, and other professional organizations have been publishing guidance for supporting safe and healthy indoor environments. From health checks and social distancing recommendations to the use of engineering controls and improvements to building ventilation systems, recommendations are continually reviewed and updated as we learn more about how to create the safest, healthiest environments possible.

The latest CDC Guidelines under Ventilation for reopening education emphasize improved air quality and building automation control strategies/upgrades and HVAC system upgrades, as well as monitoring of space density. These upgrades can be funded for schools through federal funds, allocated for this purpose.

Eligible use of funds includes: 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, and inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality.

Investments in our educational infrastructure can deliver safe, healthy and comfortable learning environments – addressing both immediate and long-term needs. Siemens can help your institution understand how to most effectively make use of funding for eligible improvements.



Visit usa.siemens.com/education to learn more about re-opening education.

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