# Stimulus Funding for Upgrading Schools





The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) program provides large amounts of emergency aid available to school districts across the country. Trane can help school leaders create a strategy to utilize these funds to make facility improvements, safeguard the learning environment, and keep schools open.

### **Stimulus Allowances**

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations and American Rescue Plan Acts provide **\$177.1 billion** in ESSER II and ESSER III funding. The funding is distributed by the U.S. Department of Education directly to state education agencies (SEAs), which is then allocated to school districts, also known as local education agencies (LEAs).



Local education agencies receive 90% of appropriated funds based on their proportional share.

Available for obligation by SEAs and subrecipients through September 30, 2023

#### ESSER II CRRSA: December 2020 – \$54.3B

The ESSER II funds are not required to be spent following ESEA Title I-A guidelines. However, several states have defined priorities for how funding is to be distributed while others let the local education agencies independently choose how to best allocate monies. The funds are reimbursable with some states requiring an application, account of how the funds will be spent, and an overall cost for the projects.

#### ESSER III ARPA: March 2021 – \$122.8B

For ESSER III, each state shall make allocations to local educational agencies in an expedited and timely manner and, to the extent practicable, not later than 60 days after the receipt of such funds. A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency's website, **not later** 

than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.







"Many students, staff, and caregivers are either missing or have had interruptions in services due to school building closures and virtual and hybrid learning. Evidence suggests that many K–12 schools that have strictly implemented prevention strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open."<sup>1</sup>

~ Centers for Disease Control, May 2020

### **Several Uses for the Funds**



Develop strategies & implement public health protocols with guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities to address the well-being of students, educators & staff



School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to mitigate health risks and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student learning environments



Improve Indoor Air Quality by upgrading HVAC systems, filtering, and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement

### **Addressing Learning Loss**

*"The mental health crisis caused by school closing will be a worse pandemic than Covid," said Dr. Uzma Hasan.*<sup>2</sup>

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ASHRAE® both stress the importance of IAQ and HVAC optimization in mitigating COVID-19 spread and reopening our schools safely.

## Ready for Now. Resilient for Tomorrow.



Trane's Wellsphere™ is a holistic approach to building wellness. It's a multi-disciplinary collective of experts using world class technologies and

services to help improve your school buildings.



The Trane Air Quality Award is a symbol for implementing proven IAQ strategies that have been researched, tested and installed by industry experts.

The right HVAC upgrades can balance immediate reopening efforts and continuing resiliency for school district operations. This allows the buildings to reopen with minimized impact on student learning. Click <u>here</u> for more information.

There is evidence from ASHRAE® and other sources that HVAC technologies can mitigate the risk of exposure to infectious aerosols in built environments; however, the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and mitigation of COVID-19 in buildings is yet to be tested and confirmed.

Put your trust in Trane to help your school district evaluate, track, and create your best strategy for the use of these federal stimulus programs.

For more information, contact: Your Trane Account Manager or visit Trane.com/k12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#ref1</u> <sup>2</sup> https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/11/upshot/schools-reopening-coronavirus-experts.html