



The CARES Act – Funding Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Improvements in K-12 Schools

What is the CARES Act?

The **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, Emergency Relief (CARES) Act** is a stimulus package passed by Congress as a way to respond to the financial need of State & Local governments who are navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. The **\$2.3 trillion-dollar** allotment is broken down and funds are then funneled to new and established relief programs.

CARES Act Funding Breakdown for Education

Of the \$2.3 trillion-dollar CARES Act funding, **\$30.75 billion-dollars** is reserved for the **Education Stabilization Fund**. This fund is then divided into three parts to provide initial relief to states and districts facing education challenges stemming from the coronavirus.



The **\$13.2 billion Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund**. States must allocate 90% of the funding to districts, including charter schools. Districts have flexibility on how to target the funds they receive, including how and which schools are funded. States have flexibility on how to target the 10% of funding they retain.¹



The **\$3.0 billion Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund**. States will receive funds based on a combination of both school-age population and rates of poverty, and governors have wide discretion over use of these funds to support K-12 or higher education.²

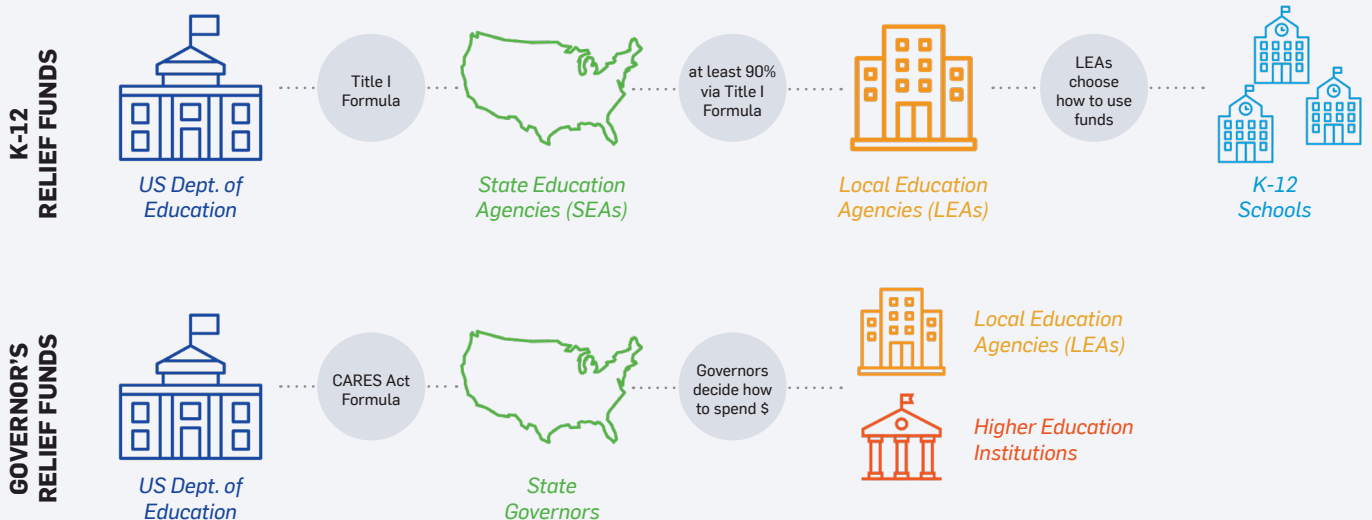


The **\$14.25 billion Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund**. Institutions of higher education will receive this funding directly, and they have broad latitude over its use, although at least 50% of their allocations must support emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare and child care.³

Guidelines for Using CARES Act Funding

The CARES Act requires that the payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund only be used to cover expenses that—

- are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to (COVID-19);
- were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government; and
- were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.

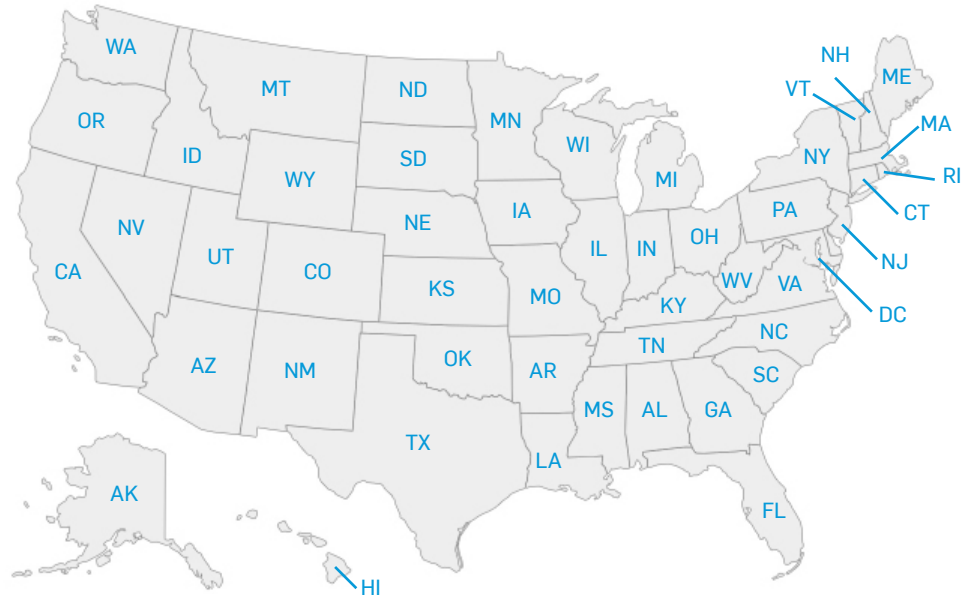


Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)

States receive funds based on the same proportion that each state receives under the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title I-A. States must distribute at least 90% of funds to local education agencies (LEAs) based on their proportional share of ESEA Title I-A funds. States have the option to reserve 10% of the allocation for emergency needs as determined by the state to address issues responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴

Click on a state to download the state guidance to LEAs.






The CARES Act ESSER Tracker can be viewed [here](#).



⁴ CARES Act Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund Tracker, NCSL. <https://www.ncsl.org/ncsl-in-dc/standing-committees/education/care-act-elementary-and-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund-tracker.aspx>

Ways to Improve Indoor Air Quality

Carrier can help you evaluate—and if necessary upgrade—essential aspects of your school's current HVAC system to make sure it delivers the high level of indoor air quality (IAQ) necessary to support key wellness initiatives.

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|  <p>real-time MONITORING</p> |  <p>increased VENTILATION</p> |  <p>improve FILTRATION</p> |  <p>UV LAMPS/ IONIZATION</p> |  <p>relative HUMIDITY</p> |
| <p>Real-time IAQ data monitoring, compared to the WELL Building Standard™, provides actionable insights into occupant health and well-being.</p> | <p>Bringing in more fresh outside air to replace indoor air can help reduce airborne contaminants.</p> | <p>The higher the MERV rating, the more efficient the filter. ASHRAE recommends MERV 13 or higher for K-12 schools whenever possible.</p> | <p>UV lights not only kill pathogens—they keep coils clean, which reduces pressure drop and enables the installation of more sophisticated air filters.</p> | <p>Keeping indoor humidity within the ASHRAE 55 suggested range (40% and 60%) can minimize the effects of bacteria and certain allergens.</p> |

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