



# USING ESSER FUNDS FOR K-12 IAQ, SAFETY AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

## HEALTHIER SCHOOLS START HERE. AND THANKS TO FEDERAL FUNDING, THEY CAN START NOW.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the criticality of optimized indoor environments. The air quality, safety and security of our schools play a role in controlling the spread of infection, supporting overall student and staff health and well-being, and improving student performance. Unfortunately, school infrastructure across the United States has been significantly underfunded for decades.

Now, as K-12 schools look to inspire confidence in safe, healthy environments for uninterrupted, in-person learning, there's an incredible opportunity to take advantage of available stimulus funds – and Carrier is here to help.

**“School infrastructure has been chronically underfunded. COVID-19 funds represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity for health-based improvements to school buildings that are safe, evidence-based, and provide long-term value.”**

**-The Lancet COVID-19 Commission**



## ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF (ESSER) FUNDING

Through three federal funding packages, the United States government has set aside nearly \$200 billion for COVID-related stimulus efforts in K-12 schools. Known as the ESSER program, these funds can be applied toward health-based building improvements and risk mitigation including ventilation, filtration, and safety assessments and upgrades.



**Funding is distributed to school districts through the ESSER program using the Title 1 funding formula**, so each school district knows how much funding it will receive.



**Air quality improvements are permitted**, including both mechanical and non-mechanical improvements.



**Safety and security improvements related to the pandemic** – such as those that help with social distancing and access control – are also covered under ESSER funding.



**Funds may be used for new construction, remodeling, alterations, renovations and repairs.\***

Local Carrier experts are available to help your school district understand how to access funds and which solutions are eligible; we are contracted with many states and cooperative purchasing organizations to help expedite procurement.



## HEALTHIER AIR, HEALTHIER SCHOOLS

The quality of the air inside classrooms has never been more critical. Research continuously illustrates the importance of ventilation and filtration as a key COVID-19 risk reduction strategy, especially in school buildings. As part of a holistic approach to healthier schools, Carrier offers a range of solutions focused on key strategies for improving indoor air quality.

- Commission buildings and examine existing systems every three to five years to verify that the building is performing as designed.
- Ventilate with clean outdoor air to dilute the concentration of airborne virus, targeting four to six air changes per hour.
- Improve the building's filtration efficiency, removing infectious particles from the air using MERV-13 filters.
- Use portable air cleaners with HEPA filtration to increase clean air supply in a classroom as a supplementary measure.



## ENHANCING SAFETY AND SECURITY

While much focus has been on improving air quality, maintaining and improving the basic elements of a healthy school building cannot be overlooked. Safety and security are fundamental to any healthy building – and to human health and wellness. Carrier offers expertise and solutions that address key aspects of safety and security, helping you take advantage of ESSER funding to solve short-term challenges and provide a solid foundation for future enhancements.

- **Modernize fire safety technologies and emergency response plans** to account for popular communications tools, social distancing and managing flow through common pathways.
- **Leverage access control and mobile credentialing technologies to customize access**, reduce physical touch points, manage occupancy and distribute mass notifications.



### THE SCIENCE OF HEALTHIER SCHOOLS

The benefits of school building improvements for indoor air quality, safety and security go well beyond COVID-19 and disease avoidance. Decades of scientific research support the direct impacts that buildings have on student health, thinking and performance.

Evidence shows that ventilation and air cleaning improvements lead to improved academic performance, fewer respiratory symptoms, fewer missed school days and higher test scores.<sup>1</sup>

### CONNECT WITH CARRIER

There has never been a greater opportunity – or need – to make meaningful investments for the well-being of students, staff and visitors, and inspire confidence in the health and safety of learning environments.

Carrier experts are versed in education funding and receive training each year to stay up to date. We also have healthy building experts and a complete portfolio of solutions and services covering HVAC, fire and security, building automation and controls, and more.

Visit us at [carrier.com/k-12/](https://carrier.com/k-12/) for a wide array of information and to connect with a Carrier expert.

\* Construction projects must be approved by the state education agency, governor, or state department of projects or public works. Improvements must comply with all federal rules for construction projects including Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements.

<sup>1</sup> Toyinbo et al, 2016; Coley et al, 2007; Zhang & Dear, 2017; Bakó-Biró et al, 2011; Haverinen-Shaugnessy et al, 2015; Park, 2016



HEALTHYSCHOOLS