

ESSER

Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief



SUMMARY

ESSER funding can be used for a wide range of activities, all of which support the effective operations of K-12 schools and the health and safety of students, educators, and staff. In total, ESSER has included three separate funds (ESSER I, II, and III) as part of various measures including the American Rescue Plan passed during the Covid-19 public health emergency. We are now in ESSER III, and funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024, or they will be lost; they must then be expended by January 28, 2025.

DETAILS




ESSER grants were made available to any Local Education Agency (LEA) applying for funds through their state.

- 20% of ESSER grants must be used to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions, responding to students’ social, emotional, and academic needs in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The remaining 80% can be used for the safe operation of schools and effective maintenance of the health and safety of students, educators, and staff, including “repairing and improving school facilities to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards” and “improving indoor air quality.”



ESSER funding and remaining unallocated funds differ by state. The US Department of Education provides a Transparency Portal that shows funds awarded and percentage spent by state. (<https://covid-relief-data.ed.gov/>)



**ESSER:
Learn More**

[US Department of Education
ESSER Fact Sheet](#)

[Garland’s Full-Service
Manufacturing Process](#)

Project Highlights:

- ▶ [East Lyme School District \(CT\)](#)
- ▶ [Philo Junior High \(OH\)](#)

WHY GARLAND FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS?

Water and air control are critical to indoor air quality (IAQ), and the building envelope including the roof can have a significant impact on air barriers. When moisture gets into roofing materials (insulation, adhesives, resins, and dust) and the conditions are right, microbe growth is promoted. Air is a transporter for moisture and the resulting microbes, as well as dust, mites, allergens, and VOCs.

Newer construction methods that focus on maintaining comfortable temperature and humidity can drive additional moisture into the building envelope, where even the smallest defect in the building can have a large impact on IAQ. In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, school districts that invested in HVAC or other ventilation systems without also checking the soundness of their roof could be circulating poor-quality air and making the risks for students worse.

Garland’s high-performance roofing systems promote IAQ with durable materials that are resistant to mechanical and storm damage, and that are customized for the local climate. Working in tandem with a facility director and architect, Garland systems are properly designed for proper roof slope, drainage and flashing height to mitigate water leaks, and include continuous air barriers that control air leakage. In addition, a local Garland territory manager is on-site frequently during a project to ensure installation according to spec.

When the project is complete, a school district has the peace of mind that they have improved the indoor air quality for students, faculty, and staff, while extending the life of the school building with a leak-free environment.

