

Improving school safety with ESSER funding

1 Reducing germ and virus transmission

Schools can use ESSER II and III funding for solutions that reduce the spread of COVID-19. Touchless solutions like affordable automatic door operators and hands-free door pulls reduce contact with high-touch surfaces at entrances, cafeterias, gymnasiums, restrooms and other frequently visited areas.

2 Security and contact tracing

Many secondary doors are keyed access and likely to be propped open by students and staff, allowing unauthorized people to enter. Electronic access control with door monitoring provides a safer opening and can assist with contact tracing. ESSER II and III funds can be used for solutions that reduce the spread of COVID-19.

3 Classrooms

Code-compliant classroom lockdown solutions protect against a variety of threats. Here's what to look for:

- Lockable from inside the classroom
- Allows free egress
- Accessible by emergency responders with key or approved means

Safety tip

ESSER I, II and III funds can be used to upgrade locks to ADA compliant levers with recommended classroom lockdown functionality.

4 Improved air quality

Properly functioning doors and hardware can positively impact air quality. Make regular adjustments, repairs or replacements to ensure HVAC systems are operating properly and cost-effectively. ESSER II and III funding can be used for "door repair and replacement."

Applicable language in ESSER funding acts:

- **Classroom security/accessibility:** "Any activities authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, IDEA..." -- CARES Act Section 18003(d)(1), CRRSA Act Section 313(d)(1), ARP Act Section 2001(e)(2)(B)
- **COVID-19 mitigation:** "Development of strategies and implementation of public health protocols that align with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on reopening and operating school facilities to maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff." -- ARP Act, Section 2001(e)(2)(Q), Similar statement listed in CRRSA Act Section 313(d)(13)
- **Door repair and replacement:** "Inspecting, testing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, and upgrading projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including HVAC systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement." --CRRSA Act, Section 313(d)(14), ARP Act, Section 2001(e)(2)(P)

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