

# CARES 2.0: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund





## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funding(ESSER II) = \$54.3B

The future of education is driven by collaboration. At Cisco, we help you create a hybrid learning environment that is both flexible and secure, so your students, teachers, and staff can teach, learn, and collaborate—no matter where they are. And now the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), is providing an additional \$54.3 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund) to ensure learning continues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This new funding, more than four times the initial awards to state educational agencies under the CARES Act, is intended to help states and school districts safely reopen schools, measure and effectively address significant learning loss, and take other actions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the students and families who depend on our K-12 schools.

### Grant Overview

The ESSER II funds will be awarded via formula (based on Title 1) to the states within 30 days of enactment. States will then re-grant the funds to local education agencies (LEAs) and charter schools with LEA status to address the unprecedented challenges caused by COVID-19.

### Use of Funds

Broad allowable uses of funds include preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19. There are 15 uses specified, including several that benefit hybrid learning:

- Purchasing EdTech to facilitate continued learning
- Addressing learning loss among students (especially those considered “at-risk”)
- Other activities necessary to maintain operations & continuity of services
- Supplies for sanitization of facilities.

In addition, ESSER funds could go toward an E-rate applicant’s non-discount portion (matching funds). We suggest following this [USAC guidance](#):

E-rate rules require applicants to have “secured access” to the funds necessary to pay for their non-discount portion at the time their FCC Form 471 funding applications are certified. The [USAC website](#) states:

“Secured access means that you can show either that these funds are, or will be, part of your annual budget, or if you are obtaining the funds from an outside source, that these funds have been promised to you. If you obtain these funds from an outside source, the funds must not come directly or indirectly from your service providers.”

## The Cisco Public Funding Office

- Provides assistance in identifying state and federal funding to support your project.
- Provides detailed information and grant verbiage for Cisco@technology.
- Assists with general grant project design and partnership recommendations.
- Acts as an extra set of eyes to review grant proposals.

## Next steps

To learn more about available grants funding, please contact your Cisco account manager or public funding advisor at [grantquestions@cisco.com](mailto:grantquestions@cisco.com)

Plus, find out how you can build a bridge to highly secure distance learning, virtual classrooms, and administrative collaboration with [Cisco solutions for education](#).

## Grant Application Deadline

No additional application is required; recipients of CARES ESSER funding will receive ESSER II within 30 days. Please note, school districts are expected to exhaust ESSER I funds (spend deadline Sept. 30 2022) before using ESSER II funds (spend deadline Sept 30 2023). States can reserve up to 10% of funds for state emergency needs, grants, or contracts to address issues or learning loss at state level.

[View ESSER II state allocations](#)

[Learn more about ESSER II](#)

## We're here to help during COVID-19

As your school district develops strategies to address the current pandemic and the future of education, Cisco is here to help. We offer a variety of innovative solutions that empower you to reimagine education by expanding teaching and learning across physical and virtual environments.

Known as a hybrid learning environment, this approach helps you:

- Increase student and faculty engagement
- Educate anywhere, anytime
- Provide flexible learning experiences.

To find out how partnering with Cisco can create flexible and secure hybrid learning environments for your school district, check out:

[Create Hybrid Learning Environments](#)

[Explore our Portfolio](#)

[Why Cisco for Education](#)

## Can't wait for federal funding?

Cisco Capital can help your education institution access the technology you need to deliver inclusive, innovative, and collaborative teaching and learning experiences. Our flexible payment solutions enable you to secure additional budget and preserve your current funds for other high priority initiatives. Bundle hardware, software, and services into a complete solution and spread your investment over time with predictable payments. With no upfront costs and rates as low as 0%, you can create secure and productive learning environments and attract new students in a competitive and challenging landscape—all without draining your budget.

Learn more at: [cisco.com/go/financing](http://cisco.com/go/financing)