



February 5, 2021

Dear State School Facilities Officials,

The COVID 19 Relief Act was signed into law on December 28th, 2020. Among many other provisions in the \$900 billion COVID-19 Relief bill, there is \$54.3 billion for PK-12 public education within the Elementary and Secondary Schools Education Relief (ESSER) Fund (See state by state and state reservation allowance, Appendix A). The U.S. Secretary of Education was charged with releasing these funds to states and outlying areas and the Bureau of Indian Education within 30 days of the enactment.

Different from CARES (the first \$2.2 trillion COVID 19 relief package) this 2nd COVID 19 Relief Bill includes allowable uses for public school facilities as part of the \$54.3 billion directed to states and school districts. The language for allowable facilities uses are found in sections 13-15 listed below:

(13) School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.

(14) Inspection, testing, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair and replacement.

(15) Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

States are required to allocate at least 90% of these \$54.3 billion directly to school districts, by Title I formula. However, they are allowed to reserve up to 10% of their allocation for state responsibilities. One-half of 1 percent of the state reservation can be used for administrative costs, but the other 9.5% can be reserved by the state and used for “emergency needs as determined by the state educational agency to address issues responding to coronavirus, including measuring and addressing learning loss, which may be addressed through the use of grants or contracts.”

The National Council on School Facilities (NCSF) recommends that the state education offices dedicate a portion of the state reservation funds to state facilities offices.

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Examples of state level activities that will support “emergency needs as determined by the state to address issues responding to coronavirus....” could include important activities managed by the state facilities offices, where these exist, such as:

- An inventory of public school facilities, including their capacity to support enrollment and to serve as alternate care facilities during emergencies--public health or natural disasters;
- Assessments of public school facilities envelopes, systems, components and furniture, fixtures and finishes for the health qualities of the learning environment with a special focus on the elements related to mitigating the spread of viruses;
- An information management system that connects the facilities inventory and assessments to other state level data;
- Technical assistance on facilities related mitigation measures recommended by the CDC.
- State funding to districts needing emergency assistance for ventilation repairs to meet CDC guidance on operating safely; and/or
- State funding to address increased costs of capital projects due to COVID--e.g. cost of delays, maintaining safe worker environments on construction projects, supply chain delays and need for material, equipment or fixture substitutions to keep the projects moving.

State actions have the potential to bring critical information to decision makers at the local, state and federal levels. Having timely, relevant data will save money and time for districts as they make the facilities improvements needed to operate safely and to secure the trust of families and staff.

There are considerable challenges to planning, budgeting and management of school facilities due to the levels of uncertainty around enrollments, learning loss, staff turnover, and public health mitigation strategies. The National Council on School Facilities is committed to assisting states as they help their districts with this critical period of school operations.

Sincerely,



Mary Filardo

NCSF Staff Director

www.FacilitiesCouncil.org

Executive Director, 21st Century School Fund

State/Entity	State Share Title I Part A	Total Students [State] 2018-19	PK-12 Public Ed \$54.3 billion	10% max for SEA Admin
Alabama	1.64%	739,716	\$ 881,614,800	\$ 88,161,480
Alaska	0.29%	130,963	\$ 155,895,300	\$ 15,589,530
Arizona	2.10%	1,141,511	\$ 1,128,897,000	\$ 112,889,700
Arkansas	0.97%	495,291	\$ 521,442,900	\$ 52,144,290
California	12.45%	6,272,734	\$ 6,692,746,500	\$ 669,274,650
Colorado	0.91%	911,536	\$ 489,188,700	\$ 48,918,870
Connecticut	0.84%	526,634	\$ 451,558,800	\$ 45,155,880
Delaware	0.33%	138,405	\$ 177,398,100	\$ 17,739,810
D.C.	0.32%	93,741	\$ 172,022,400	\$ 17,202,240
Florida	5.82%	2,846,444	\$ 3,128,657,400	\$ 312,865,740
Georgia	3.46%	1,767,202	\$ 1,859,992,200	\$ 185,999,220
Hawaii	0.33%	181,278	\$ 177,398,100	\$ 17,739,810
Idaho	0.36%	310,522	\$ 193,525,200	\$ 19,352,520
Illinois	4.30%	1,982,327	\$ 2,311,551,000	\$ 231,155,100
Indiana	1.62%	1,055,706	\$ 870,863,400	\$ 87,086,340
Iowa	0.54%	514,833	\$ 290,287,800	\$ 29,028,780
Kansas	0.64%	497,733	\$ 344,044,800	\$ 34,404,480
Kentucky	1.46%	677,821	\$ 784,852,200	\$ 78,485,220
Louisiana	2.17%	711,783	\$ 1,166,526,900	\$ 116,652,690
Maine	0.33%	180,461	\$ 177,398,100	\$ 17,739,810
Maryland	1.57%	896,827	\$ 843,984,900	\$ 84,398,490
Massachusetts	1.62%	962,297	\$ 870,863,400	\$ 87,086,340
Michigan	2.95%	1,504,194	\$ 1,585,831,500	\$ 158,583,150
Minnesota	1.06%	889,304	\$ 569,824,200	\$ 56,982,420
Mississippi	1.28%	471,298	\$ 688,089,600	\$ 68,808,960
Missouri	1.58%	913,441	\$ 849,360,600	\$ 84,936,060
Montana	0.31%	148,844	\$ 166,646,700	\$ 16,664,670
Nebraska	0.49%	326,392	\$ 263,409,300	\$ 26,340,930
Nevada	0.89%	498,614	\$ 478,437,300	\$ 47,843,730
New Hampshire	0.28%	178,515	\$ 150,519,600	\$ 15,051,960
New Jersey	2.35%	1,400,069	\$ 1,263,289,500	\$ 126,328,950
New Mexico	0.82%	333,537	\$ 440,807,400	\$ 44,080,740
New York	7.84%	2,700,833	\$ 4,214,548,800	\$ 421,454,880
North Carolina	3.00%	1,552,497	\$ 1,612,710,000	\$ 161,271,000
North Dakota	0.25%	113,845	\$ 134,392,500	\$ 13,439,250
Ohio	3.70%	1,695,762	\$ 1,989,009,000	\$ 198,900,900
Oklahoma	1.22%	698,891	\$ 655,835,400	\$ 65,583,540
Oregon	0.92%	609,507	\$ 494,564,400	\$ 49,456,440

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State/Entity	State Share Title I Part A	Total Students [State] 2018-19	PK-12 Public Ed \$54.3 billion	10% max for SEA Admin
Pennsylvania	3.96%	1,730,757	\$ 2,128,777,200	\$ 212,877,720
Puerto Rico	2.64%	307,282	\$ 1,419,184,800	\$ 141,918,480
Rhode Island	0.35%	143,436	\$ 188,149,500	\$ 18,814,950
South Carolina	1.64%	780,882	\$ 881,614,800	\$ 88,161,480
South Dakota	0.31%	138,975	\$ 166,646,700	\$ 16,664,670
Tennessee	1.96%	1,007,624	\$ 1,053,637,200	\$ 105,363,720
Texas	9.72%	5,433,471	\$ 5,225,180,400	\$ 522,518,040
Utah	0.51%	677,031	\$ 274,160,700	\$ 27,416,070
Vermont	0.24%	87,359	\$ 129,016,800	\$ 12,901,680
Virginia	1.80%	1,289,367	\$ 967,626,000	\$ 96,762,600
Washington	1.64%	1,123,736	\$ 881,614,800	\$ 88,161,480
West Virginia	0.65%	267,976	\$ 349,420,500	\$ 34,942,050
Wisconsin	1.32%	859,333	\$ 709,592,400	\$ 70,959,240
Wyoming	0.25%	94,313	\$ 134,392,500	\$ 13,439,250
Subtotal	100.00%	51,012,850	\$ 53,757,000,000	\$ 5,375,700,000
Outlying Areas	--	52,543	\$ 271,500,000	\$ 27,150,000
Bureau of In Ed	--	43,706	\$ 271,500,000	\$ 27,150,000
Total	--	51,109,099	\$ 54,300,000,000	\$ 5,430,000,000

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