



How to Get Your ESSER II “ACT” Together

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Session

A4LE Conference

July 22-23, 2021

Digital Conference

<https://associationdays.a4le.org/>



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The CRRSA Act

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (ESSER II)

Association for Learning Environments (A4LE)

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Purpose

The purpose of these sessions is to provide an overview of the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Funds that has been awarded to school districts as subgrants under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act.

Disclaimer

This presentation is designed to help you understand state requirements and procedures for the ESSER II subgrant.

This presentation is *not a substitute* for reading the subgrant agreement, all assurances, terms, and conditions, and applicable state laws and federal regulations.

Objectives

- To understand the ESSER II funds including state and district responsibilities.
- To understand allowable uses of the ESSER II funds
- To understand the Process Flow related to Category 13 & 14 and the Office of School Facilities

CRRSA Act – General Information

- On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) was signed into law
- The US Department of Education (USED) provided \$54.3 billion for ESSER II
- USED awarded grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools

ESSER II Funds – School District Subgrants

- Based on FY21 (Summer 2020) Title I allocations
- South Carolina received \$940,420,782
- 90 percent (\$846,378,704) will flow through to school districts
- Remaining funds (\$94,042,078) will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19

ESSER II – Subgrant Specifics

- Districts were NOT required to complete a new application: but must submit a spending plan and sign GAN for ESSER II funds
- Districts are NOT required to use any ESSER II funds for Equitable Services
- ESSER II subgrant extends until September 30, 2023

ESSER II – Subgrant Specifics, cont'd

- Districts are encouraged to spend ESSER I funds first before spending ESSER II funds
- Districts will be monitored through a tiered system, just as with ESSER I funds

Cannot use Subgrant Funds for

- Bonuses, merit pay, or similar expenditures, unless related to disruptions or closures related to COVID-19,
- Subsidizing or offsetting executive salaries and benefits of individuals who are not LEA employees, or
- Expenditures related to state or local teacher or faculty unions or associations

Supplanting and ESSER II Funds

- Supplement not Supplant does not apply to these funds; however, districts should ensure that the funds are spent on activities related to, caused by, or impacted by COVID-19 pandemic

15 Areas of Allowable Uses of Funds

1. Any activities authorized under
 - a. ESSA
 - b. IDEA
 - c. Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
 - d. Perkins Act e. Subtitle B of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
2. Coordinate emergency response
3. Address needs of highly vulnerable populations
4. Support school leaders and school needs
5. Ensure preparedness and coordination (systems & procedures)

15 Areas of Allowable Uses of Funds, cont'd

- 6. Training related to infectious diseases
- 7. Purchase cleaning supplies to sanitize and clean schools
- 8. Planning/coordinating for continued education during long-term closures
- 9. Purchase education technology
- 10. Mental health supports
- 11. Summer learning

Detailed descriptions online at <https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esser-funding-information/esser-2-funding-information/esser-ii-spending-categories/>

New Allowable Use of Funds

- 12. Addressing learning loss among students
- 13. Facility repairs and improvements to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure
- 14. Improvement of in-door air quality in school facilities
- 15. Other activities to ensure continuity of education and employment* (Same as ESSER I #12)

New Category 13 & 14

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

Spending Plan

- As with ESSER I, districts must budget by the fifteen allowable categories
- ESSER II spending plan is in Excel format
- Districts should download the Excel spending plan from the ESSER II webpage
- The ESSER II Excel spending plan and GEPA statement should be submitted together to the scesser@ed.sc.gov

Spending Plans

**South Carolina
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief II (ESSER II) Subgrant
Spending Plan Form**

LEA Information

LEA Name:	Please choose...	▼
Total number of employees in full time equivalency as of March 13th, 2020:		

Superintendent Information

Name:			
Phone:		Ext.:	
Email:			

Spending Plan, cont'd

Please provide a brief description on how the district determined, and how the ESSER II funds will meet, the district's needs.

Attestation and Signature of Superintendent

I attest that the information contained in this document is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and the agency named above has authorized me as its representative to file this application. By typing my name below, I affirm that I am authorized to submit this form on behalf of the Subgrantee.

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Electronic Signature of Superintendent

Date

Spending Plan, cont'd

LEA Name: Please choose....

Select LEA from
dropdown menu

Use of Funds

1a. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Local educational agencies that receive funds under this title may use the funds for any activity authorized by the ESEA of 1965, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) ("IDEA")

Describe activities for
1.a.

Description of Activities

	Object	Salaries	Employee Benefits	Purchased Services	Supplies & Materials	Capital Outlay	Other	Indirect Costs	Pre-award Expense	Total
Function	Code	100	200	300	400	500	600	700		
Instruction	300								<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
Support Services	200								<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
Community Services	300								<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
Other Charges	400								<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
Total		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00

Process Flow

- Districts may complete and submit a ESSER II Spending Plan and GEPA statement for review and approval to scesser@ed.sc.gov
- Once approved, districts will be sent Grant Award Notification (GAN) and Assurances
- Districts sign and return signed GAN and Assurances to scesser@ed.sc.gov
- Districts may then proceed with uploading budget into GAPS for approval by the SCDE Office of Finance

Quick Reminders

- Adopt the 2020 Model School District Procurement Code (when approved)
<https://procurement.sc.gov/schoolscodes>
- Applications must include a GEPA Statement

Reporting Dates for ESSER II

Reporting Period	Reporting Due Date
April 1 - June 30, 2021	July 5, 2021
July 1 - September 30, 2021	October 5, 2021
October 1 – December 31, 2021	January 5, 2022
January 1 – March 31, 2022	April 5, 2022

- Please notify SCDE if you are not going to meet the reporting deadline.*

ESSER Resources

- SCDE main ESSER II webpage
 - <https://ed.sc.gov/policy/federal-education-programs/esserfunding-information/esser-2-funding-information/>
 - Links to resources, allocations, and information
- SCDE main ESSER II webpage
 - <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilizationfund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/>
- SCDE ESSER II e-mail account (Same as ESSER I)
 - scesser@ed.sc.gov

Thank You

- Please email scesser@ed.sc.gov with any questions or issues regarding ESSER I or ESSER II
- Email grantsaccounting@ed.sc.gov with any questions related to GAPS
- Please submit all quarterly reports to the grantsaccounting@ed.sc.gov account



Building Official Code Enforcement & Inspections

Required by SC State Law to approve and inspect public school buildings and property related to new construction, renovations, and improvement projects.



SECTION 59-23-210

(B) All construction, improvement, and renovation of public school buildings and property on or after the effective date of this section must have plans and specifications submitted to the State Superintendent of Education or the superintendent's designee. Approval of the plans and specifications by the State Superintendent of Education or the superintendent's designee must be received before public bidding before the construction can begin. Plans and specifications must be coordinated with county officials such as traffic engineers and zoning administrators.

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New Category 13 & 14 (ESSER II)

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

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Office of School Facilities Role (ESSER II)

Spending Plan Review

New OSF Role

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.

Description of Activities

	Object	Salaries	Employee Benefits	Purchased Services	Supplies & Materials	Capital Outlay	Other	Indirect Costs	Pre-award Expense	Total
Function	Code	100	200	300	400	500	600	700		
Instruction	100								<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
Support Services	200								<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
Community Services	300								<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
Other Charges	400								<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00
Total		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00

[Back to Category List](#)

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Office of School Facilities Role (ESSER II)

Spending Plan Review

New OSF Role – “Output”



SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

ESSER II Spending Plan OSF Review Form

Date (Received by OSF):

School District:

Superintendent:

Schools:

USE OF FUNDS (check appropriate category):

- ☐ Category 13: School Facility Repairs and Improvements:
- ☐ Category 14: Improve Indoor Air Quality in School Facilities:

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Office of School Facilities Role (ESSER II)

Spending Plan Review

**New OSF Role –
“Output”, cont’d**



SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

ESSER II Spending Plan OSF Review Form

OSF OVERVIEW		
	Category 13	Category 14
1. Additional information required?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If Yes (information required):	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If Yes (information required):
2. Determination of Scope of Work (check appropriate):	<input type="checkbox"/> Routine Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Non Routine Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Routine Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Non Routine Maintenance
3. Appears to be appropriate use of ESSER II Funds:	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If No (reasoning):	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If No (reasoning):
4. Conclusions:	<input type="checkbox"/> Routine Maintenance, no OSF review and approval is needed <input type="checkbox"/> District to hire a SC Register Design Professional (or request waiver) to provide plans (per school/property) for OSF review, approval, and permitting	<input type="checkbox"/> Routine Maintenance, no OSF review and approval is needed <input type="checkbox"/> District to hire a SC Register Design Professional (or request waiver) to provide plans (per school/property) for OSF review, approval, and permitting

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Office of School Facilities Role (ESSER II)

Spending Plan Review

**New OSF Role –
“Output”, cont’d**

DISCLAIMER:

OSF Staff has reviewed this information to the best of their knowledge based on the documentation submitted.

Per SC State Law (§59-23-210 & §59-23-220) all construction, improvement and renovation of public school buildings and property must comply with the latest standards and specifications set forth in the South Carolina Facilities Planning and Construction Guide and requires that plans and specifications receive approval before bidding and buildings inspected by the State Superintendent of Education (or designee) before occupancy. Approval is granted in the form of a building permit. Any changes to documents previously reviewed and approved for permitting purposes must be resubmitted to the approving authority and the status of the resubmittal noted to the Office of School Facilities (OSF).

OSF Staff Concurrence (name):

Date:

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Spending Plan Tips

(Included but not limited to)

Categories 13 & 14

- List the items
- Include a justification of how the facility improvement complies with Categories 13 & 14
- Include the number of schools affected by the improvement
- Include the total cost (i.e. soft and hard cost of construction)

Example (What to Do):

Add portable air purifiers to 5 schools to purify the air and help reduce the transmission of viruses.

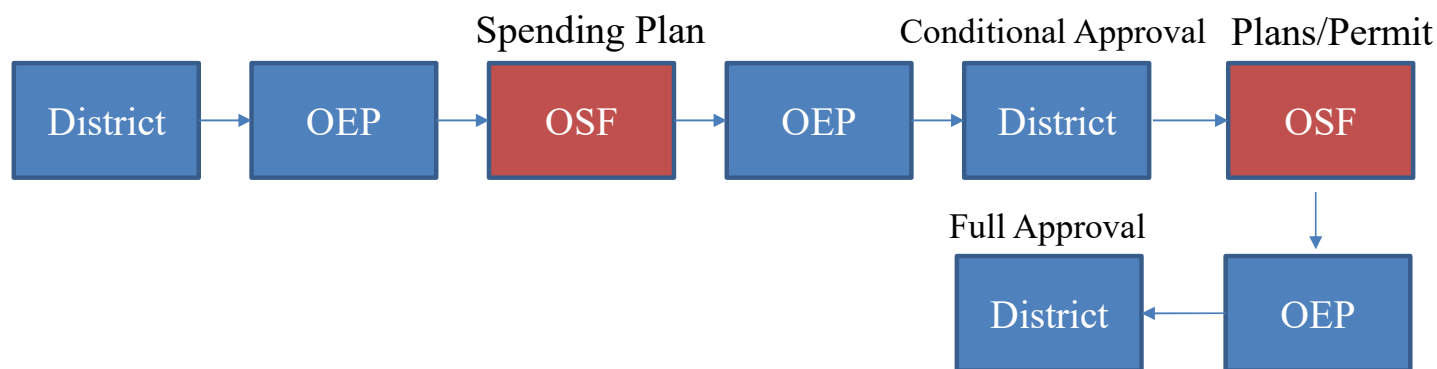
Example (What **Not** to Do):

Add Air Purifiers.

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Office of School Facilities Role (Process Flow)



- Districts may complete and submit a ESSER II Spending Plan and GEPA statement for review and approval to scesser@ed.sc.gov
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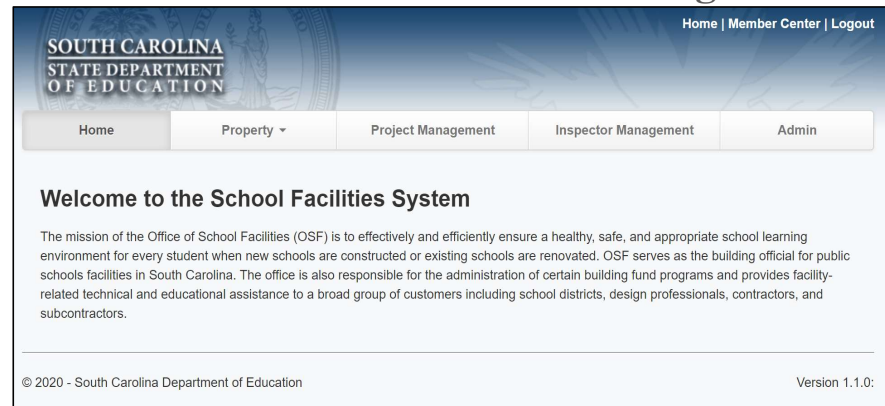


OSF Highlights (ESSER II)

- 75% Spending Plans Reviewed by Districts
- 1200 ESSER II Design Plan Reviews Forecast (3 years)
- 6% Design Plans Received/Reviewed/Permitted

**Spending Plans
must be approved
before submitting
design plans for
review**

New School Facilities Portal – Design Plans



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Office of School Facilities Role (ESSER II - Staffing)

To address the additional needs due to the emergency funding:

- OSF hired 5 Companies on SC Procurement Contract
- Utilize 3 Internal OSF Technical Staff
- Utilize 1 Internal OSF Administrative Staff
- 2 ESSER Temporary Full-Time - **Currently Vacant**

Note: *The companies and OSF technical staff consist of Architects, Engineers, Certified Third Party Inspectors, and Certified Building Officials with experience in K-12 school facilities.*

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Types of Facility Improvements

(Included but not limited to)

Approved
Categories 13 & 14

- Roof Repairs & Replacements
- New HVAC Units
- New Classroom/Multipurpose Additions
- Flooring Replacements
- Room Expansions (Nurses' room)
- Door and Window Improvements
- Fire Alarm Associated with Reducing Virus Transmissions

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Types of Facility Improvements

(Included but not limited to)

Not Approved
Categories 13 & 14

- New Facility Trash Cans
- Student Food Placemats
- Fire Alarm Systems not Associated with Reducing Virus Transmission
- Bus Lot Potholes in Parking Area

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Types of Design Professionals

(Included but not limited to)

- Architects
- Engineers – e.g. Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, and more
- Other Design Professionals as defined by the 2020 SC School Facilities Planning and Construction Guide, Section 106.2
 - Roofing Consultants
 - Kitchen Planners

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Frequency Asked Questions

- Can I use C13 & C14 for New Construction? **Yes**
- Must we comply with the Davis-Bacon Act? **Yes**
- Can I use ESSER II funds to retire debt? **No**
- Is a SC Registered Design Professional needed for ceiling tile replacement, HVAC replacement, carpet replacement, etc.? **It depends**
- Maintenance vs. Repair vs. Renovations
- Bi-polar Ionization
- When to replace HVAC Units?

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Indoor Air Quality Tips

- Complete a building assessment of repairs and improvements needed for the buildings
- Identify what cleaning methods
- Utilizing Shared Procurement Services to the benefit of buying in bulk
- Develop an Indoor Air Quality Policy or Procedure
- Ensure roof and/or building structure repairs are complete to avoid moisture entry; then focus on HVAC unit replacement
- Repair, Replace, Improve, and Install new while addressing the maintenance workload/ability to maintain improvement
- For new products and technologies, request the specification sheets and any third-party testing letters
- <https://www.ashrae.org/>

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ESSER Resources

- ASHRAE - <https://www.ashrae.org/>
- ASHRAE –HVAC Units
<https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/technical%20resources/covid-19/core-recommendations-for-reducing-airborne-infectious-aerosol-exposure.pdf>
- CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- SCDHEC - <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- SC State Statute - School Building & Other School Property, [here](#)
- SC School Facilities Planning & Construction Guide, [here](#)
- OSF Website Updates, [here](#)
- Design Plan Review Process Flow, [here](#)
- New School Facilities Portal, [here](#)

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Thank You

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