Allowable Uses of ESSER III Funding to Support School Safety

Emotional Security Strategies

To support the emotional security of students, families, and school staff, a school may use ESSER III funding to:

- Provide mental health services and supports
- Meet the social emotional and mental health needs of students and school staff
- Provide all students with access to a safe and inclusive learning environment
- Support educator and school staff well-being

Physical/Structural Safety Strategies

To support the physical/structural safety of students, families, and school staff, a school may use ESSER III funding to:

- Provide training and professional development to school staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious disease
- Purchase supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities operated by the school
- Implement school facility repairs and improvements to enable operations of schools to reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards
- Inspect, maintain, repair, replace and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems, and window and door repair or replacement

Additional School Safety Strategies

To prevent and quickly respond to cases of COVID-19 transmission in the school setting a school, a school may also use ESSER III funding to:

- Increase coordination with state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other agencies to improve coordinated responses
- Develop and implement procedures and systems to improve preparedness and response efforts
- Develop and implement strategies to re-engage disconnected youth and youth who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19

Additional Resources:

- Office of Public Instruction: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)
- Office of Public Instruction: Emergency Planning and Safety
- Office of Public Instruction: School Mental Health
- Office of Public Instruction: Social Emotional Learning
- Department of Education: COVID-19 Handbook Vol. 1 and COVID-19 Handbook Vol. 2
- Department of Education: ESSER and GEER Programs Frequently Asked Questions
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools