



What is ESSER?

The ESSER program, or the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Administered by the Department of Education, it offers emergency financial assistance to public school districts across the country.

What can ESSER funds be used for?

ESSER funds are meant to aid schools in their preparation, prevention, and response to COVID-19. Additionally, districts must allocate a minimum of 20 percent of the funds to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions. This opens a multitude of possibilities, such as investing in safety equipment, hiring more personnel, and purchasing technology to support student learning.

- Investing in educational technology and remote learning tools, including hardware like **headphones**, software and connectivity to support student learning.
- Investing in furniture and equipment to keep teachers, students and staff safe and/or distanced during in-person instruction, such as **individual desks** and **mobile chairs, tabletop screens** and **PPE**.
- Investing in outdoor furniture and equipment to account for an increase in outdoor activities and dining, such as **picnic tables, benches** and **portable sinks**.
- Hiring additional personnel to keep school spaces safe and clean, such as nurses and custodians.
- Purchasing health and safety equipment to help prevent the spread of disease, such as **air purifiers, sanitation stations** and **universal cleaners**.
- Purchasing furniture and equipment to implement before and after-school enrichment programs, including **table and chair sets**.
- Hiring additional educators and support staff.
- Purchasing **adaptive furniture and equipment** to support students with special needs.

? Are there any specific guidelines for the duration of services, such as the requirement for services to be completed within the fiscal school year?

No. Service can be within the year, or across multiple years, as long as the funds are obligated by the deadline (9/30/23 for ESSER II and 9/30/24 for ARP-ESSER). Kajeet can contract for multiple years of service with no recurring billing – one PO and one Invoice, so the full obligation can be completed while service can continue for multiple years.

? Will this funding be available long-term or is it a short-term solution?

Temporary. ESSER II funds are formula allocated by your SEA to the LEA level. ESSER II funds must be obligated by 9/30/23 and ARP-ESSER funds must be obligated by 9/30/24. Additionally, any as-of-yet unobligated funds are at risk of rescission at any time (federal clawback). Putting these funds to use NOW can secure benefits lasting for years into the future.

? Are there any limitations on the expenses for devices & data plans that can be covered by ESSER funds?

No. Standard local procurement rules must still be followed. Kajeet has multiple pre-competed and discounted public sector agency contracts compliant with 2 C.F.R. 200 / EDGAR rules for the use of federal funds covering our entire catalog.

? Are there any requirements for CIPA compliancy when purchasing data with ESSER funds?

CIPA compliance is a requirement for any school or library who receives E-Rate funds, regardless of what funds are being used for any specific purchase.

? Is there a requirement for tracking & reporting when utilizing these funds?

Yes. That guidance is available from your State Education Agency (SEA), who sets the rules for the LEA's in their state.

Contact us today at [Kajeet.com](https://www.kajeet.com)
or call [866.4Kajeet](tel:866.4Kajeet) to schedule a free demo.

