

SOLUTION GUIDE

Utilizing Available Federal Funds for K-12 School Districts

With over \$130 billion in federal funding for K-12, there is no better time than now to improve the school experience.



Students and teachers in K-12 have slowly been adapting to new learning methods over recent years, while processes and technology infrastructure have yet to truly change or adapt.

Reducing physical security and cybersecurity incidents, managing insufficient budgets and funding, closing the digital divide, and mitigating learning loss as a consequence of the pandemic are all challenges that can be alleviated by implementing new technology. Making the move to incorporating new, modern technology can help schools seamlessly support flexible, equitable learning for all.





To help schools address challenges caused by the pandemic, the federal government has allocated over \$130 billion in multiple programs for K-12 schools. This has created an opportunity for schools to invest in safety, cybersecurity, connectivity solutions, and technologies to modernize the classroom and improve the student and teacher experience.

**Following are funding opportunities
for K-12 institutions →**

ARPA

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has allocated more than \$1.9 trillion for efforts associated with pandemic recovery.

Here are the funding opportunities for K-12 school districts:

Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief - ESSER III

- ✓ \$109 billion to local educational agencies
- ✓ 20% to address learning loss
- ✓ Provides relief for a variety of priorities, including educational technology and enabling a safe reopening of schools

Spend deadline:
September 30, 2024

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools - GEER EANS II

- ✓ \$2.75 billion for nonpublic K-12 schools
- ✓ Targets low-income students
- ✓ Funds distributed at the discretion of the state governor

Spend deadline:
September 30, 2024

Emergency Connectivity Fund for Education

- ✓ \$7.1 billion added to the E-rate program
- ✓ Supports broadband internet service and equipment used for remote learning
- ✓ For use by students, school staff, and libraries

Spend deadline:
September 30, 2020

Use cases:

- Campus network and wireless
- Hybrid learning
- Physical safety and security
- Student health and wellness
- Network, endpoint, and web security
- Identity and access control
- Digital divide and community broadband



Check out this video to learn how the [Reading School District](#) used the funding available to invest in technologies that improved the school experience.

CARES 2.0

The **Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021** includes \$900 billion in stimulus funding (“CARES 2.0”) to assist state and local governments, educational institutions, and healthcare providers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here are the funding opportunities for K-12 school districts:

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II)

- ✓ \$54.3 billion was released for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II)
- ✓ The fund is intended to help states and school districts safely reopen schools, address significant learning losses, and take other actions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19
- ✓ No additional application is required; recipients of CARES ESSER funding will receive ESSER II within 30 days of enactment

School districts are expected to exhaust ESSER funds (spend deadline Sept. 30, 2022) before using ESSER II funds (spend deadline Sept. 30, 2023).

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER II)

- ✓ Funds can be used for broad COVID-19 response, including technology for K-12, institutes of higher education (IHE) and nonpublic schools
- ✓ \$4.1 billion flows from the Department of Education (DOE) to governors via formula, then to K-12 or IHE at the governors' discretion
- ✓ For nonpublic schools, \$2.75 billion flows from DOE to governors via formula, then to state education agencies (SEAs), then to non-public schools

The spend deadline is September 30, 2022

E-rate

Through **E-rate** funds, school districts and libraries have a unique opportunity to replace old technologies with modern infrastructure that supports today's demands. The E-rate program receives \$4.2 billion yearly.

The following categories of products are eligible for E-rate discounts:

- Core networking
- Wireless
- Basic firewalls
- Managed services for networks

The E-rate program runs annually. The 470 forms to apply for the available funding should be submitted between January and March 2022. Visit our website for more information about the [E-rate program](#).



Make the most of federal funding

Today, K-12 institutions have a unique opportunity to accelerate their digital transformation journey to improve the school experience for everyone by investing in technologies that enable modern learning while creating safe environments and smarter spaces. With more than \$130 billion available in funding, there is no better time than now to invest in your school's technology needs.

Cisco Meraki can help you identify the available funding to support your district by reviewing your project and recommending the solution that fits your needs.





 Meraki

Learn more about
Meraki solutions