Juniper Networks | Engineering Simplicity

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF

U.S. CRRSA AND ARP ACTS, 2021

COVID Relief for Schools

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) act, Section 313, and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) act, Section 2001, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds are bringing welcome relief from the impacts of COVID-19 to students, educators, and families who depend on K-12 schools. These acts extend deadlines and increase ESSER funding support compared to the Coronovirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) act (see Table 1).

Table 1. ESSER At-a-Glance

	CARES	CRRSA	ARP
ESSER Fund Total*	$13 billion	$54.3 billion	$122.8 billion
Last Day to Obligate Funds	Sept. 30, 2022	Sept. 30, 2023	Sept. 30, 2023

*Funds can be used for costs incurred March 13, 2020 or later

The CRRSA and ARP ESSER funds will reimburse districts for the same allowable costs as the original CARES ESSER funds, plus several new allowable expenses (see Table 2).

K-12 IT Leadership's Critical Role in ESSER

In CARES ESSER, technology played an important role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by enabling school districts to quickly pivot to a remote learning model. CRRSA and ARP build on that foundation by focusing on programs to safely reopen schools for in-person instruction, restore and maintain high-quality learning environments, and address learning loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

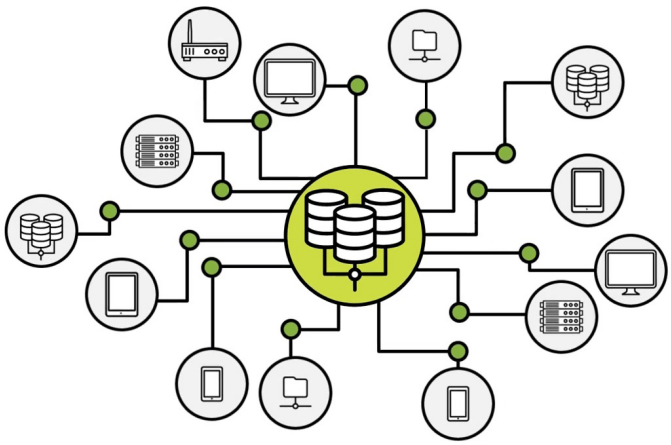
As a K-12 IT leader, you play a critical role in moving digital learning forward. With tight budgets a given, you also need to advocate to your superintendent and school board that it is in the district's best interests to leverage ESSER funds to support the unmet needs of your COVID-19 response technology initiatives. Particularly relevant to IT, many of these focused programs require access to district and online-based resources and programming. Successful program engagement by individuals requires a great user experience, but if individuals trying to access these through the district's network can't connect or have slow, stuttered connections, their outcomes are sure to suffer. Similarly, for initiatives that integrate technology-based contact tracing and smart HVAC or building management systems on campus, just providing connectivity is not enough. Unlike individuals, if these systems or IoT devices fail to connect, they can't call the district's help desk to open a trouble ticket.

Juniper's Role in Supporting K-12

As an advocate for the K-12 community, and to help move your initiatives forward, Juniper Networks offers the industry's only AI-driven platform for wired and wireless access infrastructure. Recognized as a Leader in the 2020 Gartner Magic Quadrant Wired and Wireless Access Infrastructure, our K-12 solutions, driven by Juniper Mist AI™, offer school districts unmatched capabilities and real benefits that support digital learning and deliver technology-based solutions for responding to COVID-19.

Figure 1: Juniper Mist AI-driven K-12 solution

Solutions to Support K-12 Digital Learning and COVID-19



Response Project Priorities

Juniper COVID-19 response solutions support the following:

- Secure connections enabling remote, traditional, and hybrid instruction using Juniper Mist AI-driven wired and wireless access infrastructure
- Contact tracing and social distancing policies for healthy learning environments through accurate proximity tracing, user journey mapping, and hot zone alerting
- Secure remote access for teachers, staff, and students over Juniper Secure Connect IPsec and SSL VPN solutions
- School building improvements and superior air quality by securely connecting HVAC systems, building management systems, and IoT with Juniper Mist AI-driven wired and wireless access infrastructure

Key Solution Benefits

The Juniper solution delivers the following benefits for K-12 students, teachers, and families:

- Ensures the best end-user, device, and IoT networking experiences with AI-driven insights and customizable service-level expectations based on streaming telemetry data from the Juniper Series of High-Performance Access Points and Juniper Networks® EX Series Ethernet Switches.
- Simplifies a district's network operations and automates the support experience using an integrated AI engine with self-driving capabilities that proactively resolves issues before users even notice.
- Builds a scalable, agile, and reliable network with a cloud first, microservices architecture that natively integrates AI and data science tools to meet rapidly changing requirements.
- Enhances district business and operational strategic initiatives such as boosting user engagement, introducing location-based services, and supporting contact tracing. These actions are all executed with ease and accuracy, built on virtual BLE, machine learning, and integrated IoT technologies, eliminating costly, inaccurate overlay hardware and software solutions commonly found in competitive offerings.

Table 2 details allowable uses of ESSER funds.

Table 2. ESSER Allowable Uses of Funds:

	CARES	CRRSA	ARP
1. Any activities authorized under ESEA of 1965, IDEA, Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, and McKinney-Vento.	●	●	●
2. Coordinating preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.	●	●	●
3. Providing principals and other school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.	●	●	
4. Activities that address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.	●	●	●
5. Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.	●	●	●
6. Training and professional development for local educational staff on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.	●	●	●
7. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of local educational agencies, including buildings operated by such agency.	●	●	●
8. Planning for, coordinating, and implementing activities during long-term closures, including providing meals to eligible students, providing technology for online learning to all students, providing guidance for carrying out requirements under the IDEA, and ensuring other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all federal, state, and local requirements.	●	●	●
9. Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and children with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.	●	●	●
10. Providing mental health services and supports.	●	●	●
11. Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.	●	●	●
12. Addressing learning loss among students, including low-income students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care of the local educational agency.		●	●
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.	●	●	●
16. Developing strategies and implementing public health protocols for reopening and operation of school facilities to maintain health and safety.			●

Source: CRRSA Act, pages 749-750, https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr133/BILLS-116hr133enr.pdf
ARP Act, pages 16–19, https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf

To Learn More:

To learn more about Juniper K-12 solutions, please contact your Juniper Networks representative or Juniper Networks partner or visit www.juniper.net/K-12

About Juniper Networks

Juniper Networks brings simplicity to networking with products, solutions and services that connect the world. Through engineering innovation, we remove the constraints and complexities of networking in the cloud era to solve the toughest challenges our customers and partners face daily. At Juniper Networks, we believe that the network is a resource for sharing knowledge and human advancement that changes the world. We are committed to imagining groundbreaking ways to deliver automated, scalable and secure networks to move at the speed of business.

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