FAQ: UV Light Disinfection* Technology and Coronavirus Relief Packages

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in March of 2020, the U.S. government has passed 3 separate economic relief packages totaling over $4 trillion with over $200 billion specifically for K-12 public and private education and approximately $75 billion specifically for higher education.

These various economic relief packages allow schools to not only take advantage of available funding to focus on their reopening but also invest some portion in repairs and improvements to address an increased focus on complying with health protection guidelines, including cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

Decades of research and history show that UV light has the capability to inactivate viruses and bacteria. When UV light is emitted from the source, the wavelengths target the RNA & DNA of the pathogen to prevent it from replicating and spreading[1].

The law firm of Steptoe & Johnson has provided Acuity Brands with the following summary of federal funding from various coronavirus relief programs to date.

What relief packages are available?
As of May 2021, major relief legislation providing for Emergency School Funding include Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSAA), and the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

What are the funding programs available to schools (within those relief bills)? And how is funding allocated?
Under these programs, funding is provided to K-12 & higher education facilities through state-wide allocations, based on previous education acts used for other federal funding programs, and includes:

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) - Allocation totals by state thus far can be found here. Projected allocation under the American Rescue Plan can be found here
- Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) - Allocation totals by state thus far can be found here
- Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools Fund (EANS) - Allocation totals by state thus far can be found here.
- Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEER) - Allocation totals by institution thus far can be found here.

---

[1] *Wladyslaw Kowalski. (2009). UVGI for Air and Surface Disinfection. Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation Handbook, 1-50. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-01999-9_15*

How much funding is available and by when must the funds be spent?

Relief Package Funding Totals By Program (In Billions of Dollars)[2]

Funding Program	*CARES*	*CRRSAA*	*ARP*	*Total*
ESSER	13.2	54.3	122.8	190.3
GEER	2.9	1.3	N/A	4.2
EANS	N/A	2.8	2.8	5.6
HEER	13.9	22.7	39.6	76.2

The Center for Green Schools Five Guiding Principles, describes best practices and spending deadlines between the end of 2021 through September 2023 for use of these funds.

What is the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER)?

The Department of Education will award these grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs. These emergency relief funds are then allocated to specific schools to address the impact that coronavirus has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools.
ESSER Fund awards to SEAs are in the same proportion as each State received funds under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, in fiscal year 2019. [3]

What is the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)?

A governor may use these funds to provide support to the highest education needs within the state. These funds are typically a subgrant or a contract to other LEAs, institutions of higher education (IHEs), and education-related entities that the Governor "deems essential" for carrying out emergency educational services, providing child care and early childhood education, providing social and emotional support, and protecting education related jobs.

What is the Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools Fund (EANS)?

EANS is a part of the GEER Fund that provides funding for nonpublic schools and may be used for personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, ventilation improvements, physical barriers to facilitate social distancing, expanded capacity to administer coronavirus testing and perform contact tracing, educational technology to assist students, educators, and staff with remote or hybrid learning, and education and support services for remote or hybrid learning or addressing learning loss. The EANS program funding is based on the number of children ages 5 to 17 at 185% or less of the federal poverty level enrolled in non-public schools in the state in relation to the number of all such children in all states.[4]

What is the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEER)?

Provides emergency relief directly to institutions of higher education. Institutions must use a portion of their allocation to implement evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress coronavirus. [5]

---

[2] Southern Regional Education Board, "Federal Education Funding in the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act," March 2021. https://www.sreb.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/2021_american_rescue_plan.pdf?1615498483

[3] Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), "Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund," Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, n.d. https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/

[4] Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), "Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools," Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, n.d., https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/emergency-assistance-non-public-schools/

[5] "CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund," Department of Education, September 17, 2020, https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html

How can UV light disinfection products be purchased with these programs?
All of the programs have many eligible use categories for the purchase of UV germicidal lighting with program dollars. These categories address reopening plans, purchases to sanitize and clean facilities, reducing risk of virus transmissions, and in certain cases, reimbursing for certain coronavirus related costs. It is ultimately up to local officials and schools to determine how the funds under each program are allocated.

1. **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund**
    - Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities
    - 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.
    - 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.

2. **Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund**
    - Provide emergency support through grants to local educational agencies that the state educational agency deems have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus to support the ability of such local educational agencies to continue to provide educational services to their students and to support the on-going functionality of the local educational agency.
    - Provide emergency support through grants to institutions of higher education serving students within the State that the Governor determines have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus to support the ability of such institutions to continue to provide educational services and support the on-going functionality of the institution.

3. **Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools Fund**
    - Within GEER, the CRRSA Act includes a separate program of Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) for which eligible non-public schools may apply to an SEA to receive services or assistance.

    Generally, allowable activities under EANS relate to safely reopening schools, continuing instruction, addressing learning loss, supporting educational technology and reimbursing for certain coronavirus related costs. The full list can be found in the CRRSA Act, Section 312(d).[6]

4. **Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEER)**
    - Implement evidence-based practices to monitor and suppress coronavirus in accordance with public health guidelines.[7]

---

[6] Department of Education Certification and Agreement for Funding Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Program. https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/01/Final_EANS_CertificationandAgreement_FY21.pdf

[7] American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, H.R. 1319, 117th Cong. (2021). *See: Title II, Subtitle A, Part 1, Sec. 2003. Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. 5(a).* *https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text#HEDC5B013609F4EF9919B92A562BF74D4*

What are the available solutions to treat surface and air from Acuity Brands?**
Acuity Brands offers three different types of UV light disinfection* technology products.

- PulseX™ with Violet Defense® Technology from Healthcare Lighting® is a pulsed xenon intense air & surface UV disinfection technology designed to primarily treat surfaces in a space. A broadband of UVA, UVB, UVC and visible wavelengths target pathogens primarily on surfaces.
- EvolAIR UV™ with UV Angel Clear Air™ Technology from Healthcare Lighting® is an onboard air disinfection technology designed to primarily treat air in a space. Pathogen-contaminated air is drawn into the EvolAIR UV fixture, passes through an air filter and a concealed chamber of 254nm wavelengths. Finally, the treated air is returned to the space.
- Care222® Technology is a continual surface and air disinfection technology designed to primarily treat surfaces in a space. A dose of 222nm is emitted from a module within a fixture for a few minutes every hour to target pathogens** on surfaces.

Are there solutions for both occupied and unoccupied spaces?
PulseX™ is designed only for unoccupied spaces. Care222® can be used in either occupied or unoccupied spaces as the 222nm wavelength emitted from the fixture does not penetrate the living tissue of the skin or eyes. EvolAIR UV can be used in either occupied or unoccupied spaces as the 254nm wavelength is contained in a concealed chamber and no wavelengths are emitted into a space.

How do I learn more?
Visit www.AcuityBrands.com/UV-Consultation for more information.

**All references to "disinfection" are referring generally to the reduction of pathogenic bioburden and are not intended to refer to any specific definition of the term as may be used for other purposes by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The disinfection technology as incorporated in Acuity Brands products is not intended for use in the cure, mitigation or prevention of disease and is not certified or approved for use as or for the disinfection of medical devices by the FDA. Reduction of the pathogenic bioburden is a function of fixture run time, distance to the UV light source, air flow, room size, shadow areas and/or other factors, and the level of reduction will vary within a specific space.*

***Refer to product specification sheets at www.acuitybrands.com/UV-Products for efficacy claims and claim substantiation regarding specific products and pathogens.*

The information provided in this document does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information, content, and materials available on this site are for general informational purposes only. Information in this document may not constitute the most up-to-date information. The end-user should verify current specific and/or technical rules and requirements with the applicable agency.