

# ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND II

## Menu of Options for Early Childhood, K-12, and Higher Education



**Option Two: Coordination of 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.**

Local and state education leaders must work across sectors to ensure that dollars coming from the ESSER fund are spent in the most constructive way possible to prevent, prepare for, and respond to, coronavirus.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Coordinate response efforts across early learning programs including Head Start, Public Preschool, Exceptional Children’s Preschool, private child care, etc.

Work with [Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#) and [Child and Adult Care Food Program \(CACFP\)](#) to ensure public schools and other community distribution sites provide age-appropriate offerings for infants, toddlers, preschool-age children, and their families.

Collaborate with home visiting providers to increase access to [virtual](#) and in-person [home visiting](#), parenting education, and family support strategies.

Partner with housing providers to enhance services for children and families experiencing homelessness.

Work with early learning partners to coordinate transition from early childhood settings to school settings.

Partner with Head Start and other early learning partners to offer developmental screenings to determine eligibility for services and identify developmental concerns.

Partner to develop and implement recruitment and enrollment strategies, including a common application process across early learning programs. North Carolina early learning programs [collaborated](#) to develop eligibility and enrollment [guidance](#).

Coordinate with early learning partners for aligned, developmentally appropriate summer learning activities.

Plan with community child care providers, libraries, parks, and others for interruptions in school schedules and settings.

Collaborate with licensed child care or Head Start to offer remote learning support and before- and after-school services. NC Department of Public Instruction offered [Innovative Child Care and Remote Extended Support Competitive Grants \(ICARES\)](#) where some districts partnered with licensed child care and Head Start to provide remote learning support.

Coordinate with local health departments to offer regular [onsite](#) COVID-19 testing or [vaccine clinics](#) for eligible staff or families.

K-12

[Prioritize vaccinations](#) for [school personnel](#) and students.

Implement key mitigation strategies: [correct use of masks](#), social distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, cleaning, disinfection, and [contact tracing](#).

Work with community-based organizations to identify needs and provide support for students experiencing homelessness during coronavirus including, but not limited to, immunizations, food, medical and dental services (as appropriate), eyeglasses and hearing aids, counseling services to address anxiety, and mental health issues.

Disseminate critical information about coronavirus to students, families, staff, and the community from public health officials that are culturally appropriate and accessible.

Develop a plan for physical distancing recommendations in schools based on case, contact, and outbreak data.

Coordinate testing protocol including specimen collection to confirm outbreaks in schools, encourage testing of individuals with symptoms, and report test results to the health department. North Carolina’s Department of Health and Human Services selected both public and charter schools to participate in a [pilot program](#) for COVID-19 rapid testing.

Ensure essential needs of students and staff in quarantine or isolation are met and assist in identifying these persons (including coordinating meals and access to items like toiletries), especially in schools with boarding programs.

[Develop and receive guidance for plans to prevent](#) and control cases and outbreaks and align these plans with procedures for screening and cleaning.