



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 13, 2024
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: School Business Administrators, ARP ESSER Project Directors, Grant Directors
From: Martin Egan, Director
Office of Grants Management

Security Cameras and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is alerting local educational agencies (LEAs) that the purchase of security cameras with American Rescue Plan emergency funds must follow the federal guidelines described below. Although ESSER applications have been approved for the purchase of security cameras, the following additional guidance may impact certain LEAs.

Please see below from Federal grant regulations:

§ 200.216 Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment.

- (a) Recipients and sub-recipients are prohibited from obligating or expending load or grant funds to:
- (1) Procure or obtain;
 - (2) Extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; or,
 - (3) Enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

As described in [Public Law 115-232](#), section 889, covered telecommunications equipment is telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

Action Required

The NJDOE is advising LEAs that used ESSER funds to purchase security cameras to review the manufacturer of the cameras and ensure alignment with federal guidance. If the manufacturers are noted in the guidance above, the cost is deemed an ineligible cost for ESSER funds, and the LEA must modify the existing budget in the Electronic Web Enabled Grants (EWEG) system to remove this cost from the budget.

Contact Information

For questions regarding the use of ESSER funds, please contact the local grant management team.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network.
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group