

IMMEDIATE AID TO
RESTART SCHOOL
OPERATIONS (RESTART)
PROGRAM
FAQ FOR PNPs: ALLOWABLE
USES OF FUNDS

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performed as part of their day-to-day responsibilities under their contracts with the private school.

12. May Restart funds be used to support future and past repairs to private school property damaged by the hurricanes, such as replacement of damaged ceilings, light fixtures, and vinyl flooring, and painting of classroom walls?

Yes. Restart assistance may support future expenses of this type if this assistance is provided directly by an ESC or through a contract between the ESC and a third party and is not used for inherently religious purposes (such as the repair of a chapel or religious icons).

In addition, Restart funds may be used to reimburse a private school for repair expenses that the school previously incurred if the expenses directly relate to services that are secular, neutral, and non-ideological, and are consistent with the other relevant provisions of this guidance.

13. May Restart funds be used to replace classroom furniture in a private school?

Yes. Restart funds may be used to replace classroom furniture in a private school if the ESC maintains title to and control over any furniture purchased. (See Question 14 for discussion regarding materials or equipment, including furniture, previously purchased by a private school.)

14. If a private school previously incurred expenses in purchasing materials or equipment that would otherwise be allowable under the Restart program, may an ESC use Restart funds to reimburse the private school for those expenditures or to purchase from a private school materials or equipment that the school previously acquired following the hurricanes?

An ESC may not reimburse a private school for materials or equipment that the school previously purchased. The reason for this is that the private school would have held title to such materials or equipment and they would not been under the control of a public agency.

However, if the private school and the ESC both agree, the ESC may use Restart funds to purchase from the private school materials or equipment that the private school had previously acquired. The materials or equipment must be allowable Restart expenses and be secular, neutral, and non-ideological. The ESC may continue to allow the equipment and

These teachers or staff may be former private school employees, or part-time private school employees, so long as they are under public control and not under the control of the private school during the time they are paid with Restart funds. For example, Restart funds may be used to support the salary of a mathematics teacher employed by an ESC who is providing services in a private high school.

Restart funds may not be used to pay the salaries of teachers or staff who are employed by and under the control of the private school. They may be used only to support teachers or staff employed by an ESC, or hired by a third-party contractor under the control of the ESC.

17. How may an ESC use Restart funds to provide technology services to a private school?

An ESC could use Restart funds to support the installation of a new data management system or the purchase of office computers in a private school (including a religiously affiliated private school) if such equipment was destroyed or severely damaged by the hurricanes because these services by their nature are generally secular, neutral, and non-ideological. In addition, Restart funds could pay for classroom computers, copiers, printers, and other equipment used in a private school for secular, neutral, and non-ideological purposes.

Further, if an ESC uses Restart funds to replace damaged technology in a private school, the funds may support updated versions of that technology. In all instances, the ESC must maintain title to and control over the equipment.

An ESC may also use Restart funds to hire or contract for the personnel needed to install the computer software, hardware, or other equipment that it purchases for use in the private school.

Restart funds should not be used to support the wiring of religiously affiliated private schools or to support Internet connectivity in these schools because wiring and Internet connectivity in a religious school normally are used to support religious as well as other activities. It would be very difficult for a public agency to monitor adequately whether this technology is being used solely for secular, neutral, and non-ideological purposes.

18. May Restart funds be used to supply equipment that a private school did not have before the hurricanes?

An ESC generally may use Restart funds to replace equipment that was destroyed by the hurricanes, but not to provide new forms of equipment that the private school lacked or supply additional equipment above and beyond what the school had prior to the hurricanes. (And as noted earlier, a public agency must have title to any equipment purchased for a private school and the private school may use the equipment only for secular, neutral, and non-ideological purposes.)

For example, if a private school did not have a photography lab before the hurricane, Restart funds could not be used to support a new photography lab. (This restriction regarding the replacement of equipment losses applies to Restart assistance for public schools as well.)

In some instances, it may be appropriate for an ESC to use Restart funds to support new activities to guard against future losses. For example, Restart funds could be used to support off-site electronic data storage of financial data, even if the school did not previously use such protections.

19. May Restart funds be used to pay the costs of utilities for a private school?

Restart funds may be used to pay utility bills for a private school through the end of the school year in which the private school reopens. Restart funds may also be used to reimburse a private school for utility bills previously paid.

20. Who is responsible for exercising oversight regarding the validity of the data that are submitted by private schools that seek Restart services or assistance?

The ESC that provides services or assistance to private schools is responsible for verifying the validity of the data submitted by those schools. The ESC may request from a private school the documentation necessary to verify data on the numbers of affected students or the severity of damage. The private school should cooperate with such requests in order that the ESC can determine the appropriate level of services or assistance.

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