



ARP Funding for Commercial Restrooms in Educational Facilities

Q&A Summary

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Q: I know that in higher education one of the big concerns is student housing. This often has more residentially designed plumbing. Do you have any sensor products that might fit there? This is a big deal for tuition-driven schools, as they make much of their money on housing and food.

A: Sloan manufactures only commercial restroom products. We do not supply residential plumbing products. We have many types of fittings and fixtures that are currently being used throughout student housing facilities and have a reputation for being very robust, user friendly, and vandal resistant.

If you have a student housing facility and would like to learn more about which products are best bets for this type of application, please [contact your local Sloan Rep.](#)

We also have a large number of [Case Studies for Educational Facilities](#) as well as [many other types of applications](#). Although many of these are pre-pandemic, you can see which products other higher education facilities like the [University of Notre Dame](#), [Purdue University](#), The [University of California Santa Barbara](#), and [Yale University](#) have selected.

Q: What do you recommend we do when we replace manual faucets with touch-free sensor faucets? Should we also replace manual soap dispensers at the same time?

A: Replacing the soap dispensers with touch-free versions is best for reducing the number of frequently touched surfaces and improving hand hygiene. Most Sloan sensor faucets have matching soap dispensers available to be placed alongside them on the basin, which also helps avoid clients spilling soap onto the sink deck or floor.

We recommend watching the recent Sloan Webinar on [Best Practices for Converting Manual Faucets to Touch-free Sensor Operation](#) for tips on proper faucet selection, accessories, mounting locations, and matching faucet design to the type of basins that are already installed.

You can also click [HERE](#) for an updated list of matching Sloan sensor faucet and automatic soap dispenser unit pairings.

For facilities that want to use funds to upgrade their sinks, [Sloan's AER-DEC sink systems](#) combine matching touch-free faucets, soap dispensers, and HEPA filtered hand dryers on basins that improve hygiene, avoid splashing, and help move traffic through quickly yet effectively.

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Q: We are concerned that legislation will require us to make our bathrooms uni-sex (gender neutral) to conform to transgender related regulations. We're doubtful these changes will come with funding and are hoping to address some of this with a COVID related remodel of our bathrooms. Basically, we don't want to upgrade bathrooms now and then have to turn around and do it again within the next few years to meet regulations. We'd like to keep this in mind when remodeling the bathrooms. Do you have thoughts about bathroom designs in education that will allow it to be used by both sexes at the same time and monitored by teachers to prevent behavioral issues?

A: Thank you very much for attending the Sloan webinar and for asking a very thought provoking question that has been on many minds. We actually posed a similar question to a nationally recognized design expert in a recent Sloan podcast.

You are very correct that public restroom design is evolving. Not just because of the pandemic and the availability of touch-free technology, or the need for increased privacy, or the adoption of restroom traffic management systems and, other novel approaches.

CONT'D: We're also seeing fundamental societal shifts from boomers to millennials, the push for inclusion, and a renewed sense of a restroom as a "refuge."

Here's a link to our conversation Adam Stover, Senior Principal at [Populous](#)—a renowned global architecture design firm. I encourage you to enjoy the entire podcast, but you can skip straight to the question at mark 13:12 in the link [HERE](#).

European restroom models with gender-neutral layouts were being considered in the USA even before COVID. Restrooms designed to be both gender-neutral and address Covid-19 concerns may be influenced by the European model of stalls forming a perimeter around communal washing stations with open circulation. We actually have renderings of school restrooms designed around these principals – I've added links to them below:

[LINK 1](#)

[LINK 2](#)

[LINK 3](#)

[LINK 4](#)

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Q: Do you know if ARP funding is available for schools in Puerto Rico? Is the process similar?

A: Puerto Rico is a US territory, and its population has US citizenship. On March 22, 2021, the US Secretary of Education confirmed in a letter that the Puerto Rico Department of Education will have access to pandemic relief aid and other grant funds. You can read the full text of that letter [HERE](#).

This access to funding will also apply to other US Territories like Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, though each local department of education, Governor, or appropriate authority will need to elaborate on the specific process for their location. Like many US States, the information on the various territorial websites is not yet updated. You can monitor announcements and update for Puerto Rico at the website of the [Puerto Rico Departamento de Educacion](#).

Q: You mentioned how easy it is to upgrade Sloan manual restroom products to automatic touch-free sensor operation. Can you also use Sloan kits to upgrade products that are not manufactured by Sloan?

A: Because Sloan invented the flushometer and our products are the basis of design for most manufacturers, it is likely that these kits (both top- and side-mount) will fit other brands. Contact our Technical Support Department at techsupport@sloan.com if you have questions.

Q: Can Sloan Reps help us conduct the site survey/audit?

A: Yes. Before submitting your funding request, you can work with your local Sloan Rep to conduct a site survey/audit that determines which products are best for your facility, how many you need, and what they might cost.

If you go to the [Sloan Coronavirus Relief Stimulus landing page](#), you'll be able to find your local Sloan Rep, sign up for the site survey/audit, download the audit forms for your own use, review all of the various funding options, and sign up for alerts from Sloan regarding funding updates.

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Q: Is there any funding available for private and parochial schools?

A: Yes, there are ARP funding programs available for private schools. The first that comes to mind is the Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF) which gives each state's Governor the ability to distribute funding according to their own priorities in a competitive grant process. You can learn more about GEERF on our Coronavirus Relief Stimulus web page [HERE](#).

Each state has different priorities and processes for GEERF funding. On Slide 20 of the presentation, we included links to each state program. You can use these links to learn about the priorities and processes in your state. Please note that not all of the states have had an opportunity to update their websites to include the most recent rounds of funding.

Q: Our facility uses tank and bowl combination units and not commercial flushometers. Is there a way for us to convert these units to hygienic touch-free operation too?

A: Yes. Sloan's sister company, Flushmate, manufactures a kit called the INTELLI-Flush. These units convert tank and bowl units with Flushmate pressure-assisted devices (common in commercial plumbing) to touch-free operation. To learn more about INTELLI-Flush, click [HERE](#) or [contact your local Sloan Rep.](#)

Q: Just FYI - we are finding many facilities have either already upgraded their restrooms or are going to use the money for HVAC upgrades. In my town alone, the schools are using \$900K to install Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) technology in the HVAC systems.

A: This is an option available to some facilities. Projects of that scope tend to be larger, more complex, take longer, and cost more than plumbing upgrades. The fact that you have seen projects like this in your area might also be due to the fact that you are based in New England, where many schools have already installed touch-free fixtures and fittings.

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Q: Please send us the webinars that include related products and information. Where can we find those?

A: For links to all related webinar recordings and presentations, please click [HERE](#).

Q: I'm not able to click on the links. Will you be sending these separately after the webinar?

A: Yes. The PDF version of the slide deck contains “live” links that you can click on for more information at any time.

Q: Who is our local Sloan Rep, and do they have a grant application form to apply for this funding?

A: It's important to mention that the application process is up to the facility and the school district to complete. We've included detailed information about each funding program and the application process on our website which you can access here: <https://www.sloan.com/resources/education/coronavirus-relief-funding>.

The information is continually being updated, and you can sign up to receive update alerts. Your local Sloan Rep is available to help you prepare for a project that upgrades from manual to touch-free restrooms by supporting a site survey, providing a quote, and advising on which products might perform best in your facilities.

Use this link to [contact your local Sloan Rep](#). Just put your ZIP code, postal code, city, state, or country in the search box and hit the return button to find their full contact information.

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Additional Questions? Please feel free to contact Sloan Customer Service or Technical Support.

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