

American Rescue Plan Act Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund (ESSER III) Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Local Educational Agency Plan Template

Background on ESSER

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) signed into law on March 11, 2021, provided nearly \$122 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund (ESSER). ARP ESSER, also known as ESSER III, funds are provided to State educational agencies in the same proportion as each State received under Title I-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in fiscal year (FY) 2020. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) published Interim Final Requirements (IFR) on April 22, 2021 requiring Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) receiving ESSER III funds to submit an LEA Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services. If an LEA had already developed a plan for safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services prior to the enactment of ARP that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i) but did not address all of the requirements in the IFR, the LEA must revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ESSER III funds. This applies even if an LEA has been operating full-time in-person instruction but does not apply to fully virtual schools and LEAs.

The IFR and ARP statute, along with other helpful resources, are located here:

- April 2021 IFR: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>
- ARP Act text: <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS-117hr1319enr.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 School Operation Guidance: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#anchor_1616080023247
- ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume I: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening.pdf>
- ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume II: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/reopening-2.pdf>
- ESEA Evidence-Based Guidance: <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/07/guidanceeusesinvestment.pdf>
- ED FAQs for ESSER and Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER): https://oese.ed.gov/files/2021/05/ESSER.GEER_FAQs_5.26.21_745AM_FINALb0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.pdf

Purpose of the Template

The IFR issued by ED outlines several requirements for all LEAs that receive ESSER III funds, including that LEAs have in place a plan for ensuring safety during in-person instruction (either in-progress or planned) as well as ensuring continuity of services should the LEA or one or more of its schools be required to close temporarily for COVID-19-related public health reasons in the future. LEAs who had a plan in place by March 11, 2021, which incorporated opportunity for public comment and was posted publicly have six months from the date their ESSER III Assurances were completed to update and revise the plans to meet those requirements. Examples of previous plans that may be allowable would be a completed Cal/OSHA or Assembly Bill 86 plan, as long as it meets the requirements previously stated. LEAs which did not have a statutorily compliant plan in place as of March 11, 2021, must create and post this plan within 30 days of completing their ESSER III Assurances.

If you have questions as to which category applies to your LEA, please contact EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov. Plans are required for all LEAs, regardless of operating status, unless an LEA is fully virtual with no physical location. All plans must be reviewed, and, as appropriate, revised, at least every six months to incorporate new or revised CDC guidance and other changed factors.

This template has been created to assist LEAs in the creation of these plans and to ensure all required elements are met. The following requirements and assurances pertain to both the statutory requirements and the IFR published by ED. LEAs may provide any additional information they believe are helpful in assessing their plan. If you have any questions, please contact EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov.

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name:

Anderson Valley Unified

Option for ensuring safe in-person instruction and continuity of services:
will amend its plan

1. Please choose one:

- The LEA had a plan, as of March 11, 2021, that is already compliant with the ARP statute and will review and, as appropriate, revise it every six months to take into consideration the additional requirements of the IFR; or

NOTE: If your LEA already has a compliant plan as of March 11, 2021, and has assured such by checking the box above, then you may skip questions 2-4 and complete the Assurance and Contact sections.

- The LEA has amended/created a plan compliant with the IFR using this template and has posted/will post it within 30 days of completing the ESSER III Assurances.

NOTE: If checking the box above that you are using this template to meet the 30 day plan requirements, you must respond to each question in the template.

Please note whether the LEA has a compliant plan and include a link to the plan, or acknowledge that the LEA is submitting a new plan and will post it within 30 days of receiving funds.

AVUSD has developed three plans required by the state of California that together are compliant with the ARP statute (<https://www.avpanthers.org/avusd/reports>).

-COVID Safety Plan

-Expanded Learning Opportunities Plan

-Local Control and Accountability Plan

In addition, this addendum to our COVID Safety Plan serves as our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Plan

2. The LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the CDC's safety recommendations, including: universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and coordination with State and local health officials.

Describe how the LEA will maintain, or continue to maintain, health and safety policies and procedures. Include a description of any adopted policies and procedures regarding the CDC's safety recommendations (or available LEA website links to such policies). Include descriptions of appropriate accommodations adopted and coordination efforts conducted with outside State and local health officials. Please include or describe current public health conditions, applicable State and local rules and restrictions, and other contemporaneous information that informs your decision-making process.

(a) Universal and correct wearing of masks.

See COVID-19 Safety Plan section "Face Coverings/Other Essential Protective Gear"

(b) Physical Distancing encouraged but not required.

(c) Instruction in Hand washing and respiratory etiquette.
See COVID-19 Safety Plan section "Healthy Hygiene Practices"

(d) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.
See COVID-19 Safety Plan, COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) section "Engineering Controls" and "Cleaning and Disinfecting"

(e) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.
See COVID-19 Safety Plan section "Identification and Tracing of Contacts"

(f) Diagnostic and screening testing including CDPH Pooled Testing by Concentric each Wednesday for students and staff with permission slips on file. Follow up Rapid tests for positive pools and Binax tests for sports participation.
See COVID-19 Safety Plan section "Health Screening for Students and Staff"

(g) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.
The local health center has run, and continues to schedule, drive-through vaccination clinics at the High School for staff, students, families and community members.

(h) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.
Accommodations are documented in each student's IEP. Students needing accommodations with respect to health and safety needs are addressed on an individual basis.

(i) Coordination with State and local health officials.
We work with the Mendocino County Public Health Department to obtain the latest requirements for public health decisions.

3. The LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and foodservices.

Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services in case isolation, quarantine, or future school closures are required, including how the LEA will meet the needs of students with disabilities and English learners.

Student Academic Needs:

See "Expanded Learning Opportunities Plan" and the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Action 1.7 Academic Support/ MTSS, Action 1.6 English Learner Support, Action 1.10 Students with Exceptional Needs
We will serve all students who feel safe to return five days per week for a full school day. For students who are not prepared to return to in-person learning we will work individually with families to determine: short term independent study or an online school option. Students who must isolation or quarantine will revert to independent study. If there is a school or classroom closure, the teachers and students will revert to distance learning. Services for English learners and students with disabilities will continue in an online format when needed.

Social, emotional, and mental health:

See Action 3.4 "Social/Emotional" and Action 3.2 "Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports" under the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

Student Health

See Action 3.5 "Student Health" under the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

Food Services:

See Action 3.5 "Student Health" under the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). Food services will continue to serve students at school as we normally do and as a grab and go service for students who remain at home.

4. The LEA sought public comments in the development of its plan and took those comments into account in the development of its plan.

Describe the LEA's policy or practice that provided the public with an opportunity to provide comments and feedback and the collection process. Describe how any feedback was incorporated into the development of the plan.

The following documents that were referenced above went through an extensive stakeholder engagement process and were board approved (with the opportunity for public comment). Feedback from the community was incorporated into these plans and updated based on changing guidance and/or feedback.

- COVID Safety Plan: "Consultation" section of the COVID Safety Plan details how stakeholders were involved in the development of the plan.
- Expanded Learning Opportunities Plan " A description of how parents, teachers, and school staff were involved in the development of the plan." section under "Plan Description" details how stakeholders were involved in the development.
- Local Control and Accountability Plan "Stakeholder Engagement" section details the various stakeholder opportunities and impact on LCAP document.
- This addendum to our COVID Safety Plan serves as our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Plan was publicly board approved (with the opportunity for public comment)

In addition, the LEA provides the following assurances:

- The LEA has made (in the case of statutorily compliant plans) or will make (in the case of new plans) its plan publicly available no later than 30 days after receiving its ARP ESSER allocation.

o Please insert link to the plan:

<https://www.avpanthers.org/avusd/reports>

- The LEA sought public comment in the development of its plan and took those public comments into account in the development of its plan.

- The LEA will periodically review and, as appropriate revise its plan, at least every six months.

- The LEA will seek public comment in determining whether to revise its plan and, if it determines revisions are necessary, on the revisions it makes to the plan.

- If the LEA revises its plan, it will ensure its revised plan addresses each of the aspects of safety currently recommended by the Centers for Disease Control(CDC), or if the CDC has revised its guidance, the updated safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan.

- The LEA has created its plan in an understandable and uniform format.

- The LEA's plan is, to the extent practicable, written in a language that parent can understand, or if not practicable, orally translated.

- The LEA will, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provide the plan in an alternative format accessible to that parent.

The following person or persons is/are the appropriate contact person for any questions or concerns about the aforementioned plan.

Please list name(s), title(s), address, county, and contact information for the person or persons responsible for developing, submitting, and amending the LEA plan.

Louise Simson
Superintendent
12300 Anderson Valley Way
Boonville, CA 95415
lsimson@avpanthers.org