

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:

Alpha Charter School

Option for ensuring safe in-person instruction and continuity of services:
has developed a 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.

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.

All classrooms have been equipped with MERV-13 filters. Additionally, each classroom has an air purifier. Desks are six feet apart, and each desk is fitted with a three-sided Plexiglas shield. Each teacher desk has a larger Plexiglas shield. Each student is assigned an individual small crate where their own books, chromebooks and other supplies will be kept, as they will not be allowed to put anything in the cubbies in the assigned desk. There are hand sanitizing stations in each classroom, and well as throughout the courtyard areas just outside classrooms. We provide clean, undamaged face coverings and ensure they are properly worn by employees and students over the nose and mouth when indoors, and when outdoors and less than six feet away from another person, including non-employees, and where required by orders from the California Department of Public Health

(CDPH) or local health department. At breaks and between classroom sessions, all classrooms are thoroughly sanitized.

We are currently using an AM/PM schedule, Tuesday-Friday (Mondays are teacher preparation days). Each classroom serves approximately 50% of enrolled students at each session, resulting in approximately 105-110 students at a maximum for each session, so the number of students in classrooms and on campus is quite small. Students are allowed to enter school no sooner than 10 minutes before the beginning of school, and go directly to their classroom where their teacher greets them and makes certain that they go to their assigned desks.

There is no recess per se due to the short duration of each school day. However, staff escorts students for their restroom breaks on a staggered schedule. Teachers may take their students out for PE but classes are not allowed to mingle and cohorts remain separate. Play equipment is not be used.

Breakfast and Lunch are provided using the “Grab and Go” model and students eat before and after school, but not during school.

All entrances and exits are strictly monitored. Signage reminding everyone about social distancing, masks, and sanitation appear throughout the school. Students, parents and families have been provided a “Before you come to school” checklist, as well as a flow chart that outlines what happens in case there are any symptoms either at home or at school.

Items that employees come in regular physical contact with, such as phones, headsets, desks, keyboards, writing materials, instruments and tools must also not be shared, to the extent feasible. Where there must be sharing, the items will be disinfected between uses by trained custodial staff.

We have worked closely with our school nurse, who is contracted to us through the Sacramento County Office of Education. Additionally, we have staff that have successfully completed the eight hour Johns Hopkins training regarding contact tracing and all COVID-19 related procedures.

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.

District employees are provided with ongoing training in COVID-19 hazard identification and evaluation, which consists of both the COVID-19 Prevention Program, and the CDPH COVID-19 Guidance Checklist. Employees are encouraged to work with site and/or bargaining unit leadership, and proactively monitor and look for potential problem areas. The District contacted the individual families of all students with special needs to solicit their input. English Learner students and families were contacted by staff who were fluent in their native language.

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

Who needs to quarantine?

- Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- This includes people who previously had COVID-19 and people who have taken a serologic (antibody) test and have antibodies to the virus.

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes over an 24-hour period
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

When Is Quarantine Required for A Student or Staff? People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported, ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

- Students or staffs who have a household member testing positive for COVID-19 will be ordered to quarantine at home.

- o If a student or staff lives with someone who has COVID-19 (e.g., roommate, partner, family member), and that person has isolated by staying in a separate bedroom and they have had no close contact with the person since they isolated. The last day of quarantine

- is 4 days from when the person with COVID-19 began home isolation.

- o If the student or staff or staff ended up having close contact with the person who is sick during the original 14-day quarantine, they must restart quarantine from the last day of close contact. Any time a new household member gets sick with COVID-19 and there has been close contact, quarantine must be restarted from the last day of contact.

- If a student or staff member goes home with COVID-19 like symptoms, they should stay at home for 14 days, with the certain exceptions outlined in When Can A Student Or Staff Return To School After Quarantine, below.

If a Student or Staff Member Tests Positive for COVID-19

- If a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, students in the class will be placed on distance learning. The school nurse and site administration will consult with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and will notify parents as to when students may return to school.
- Remember that contact is highly unlikely due to 6-foot spacing and face coverings worn by both students and staff.
- Classroom will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before students return.

Prior to Test Results - Regarding a student or teacher who goes home with COVID-19 like symptoms; a class will continue instruction at school until the student or staff member with COVID-19 like symptoms has a positive test result.

Positive COVID-19 Test Results - If a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, students and teacher will be sent home and will continue with learning via distance learning.

If a school staff member (instructional assistant, secretary, intervention specialist, etc...) tests positive for COVID-19 the school nurse will contact the CDPH for further instructions for tracing and to determine which students/class/staff members may be required to quarantine.

When Can a Student or Staff Return to School After Quarantine?

Student or staff may return to school after an absence due to COVID-19 related illness when the following criteria are met

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019->

ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html

OR

Healthcare practitioner's notice to return to work/school in accordance with school district/county office of education policy

Student or Staff Tested Negative to COVID-19

A student or staff may return to school after a negative COVID-19 test when:

- A student or staff member with a negative COVID-19 test and no contact with COVID-19 positive person may return to school after 72 hours.
- A student or staff member with a negative COVID-19 test and contact with a COVID-19 positive person will stay at home for 10 days.

All COVID-19 reports are confidential in nature. Employees are encouraged to report medical or other conditions that put them at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness. Employees can access COVID-19 testing by requesting information provided by the school nurse, or they can directly contact their primary physician.

In the event we are required to provide testing because of a workplace exposure or outbreak, we will communicate the plan for providing testing and inform affected employees of the reason for the testing and the possible consequences of a positive test.

Elverta School District provides effective training and instruction that include COVID-19 policies and procedures to protect employees from COVID-19 hazards. Information is provided regarding COVID-19-related benefits to which the employee may be entitled under applicable federal, state, or local laws. The district recognizes that COVID-19 is an infectious disease that can be spread through the air, that COVID-19 may be transmitted when a person touches a contaminated object and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth, and that an infectious person may have no symptoms. Information is provided regarding COVID-19 symptoms, and the importance of obtaining a COVID-19 test and not coming to work if the employee has COVID-19 symptoms. The district emphasizes methods of physical distancing of at least six feet and the importance of combining physical distancing with the wearing of face coverings, due to the fact that particles containing the virus can travel more than six feet, especially indoors, so physical distancing must be combined with other controls, including face coverings and hand hygiene, to be effective. Additionally, the district stresses the importance of frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and using hand sanitizer when employees do not have immediate access to a sink or hand washing facility, and that hand sanitizer does not work if the hands are soiled. Staffs are trained on the proper use of face coverings and the fact that face coverings are not respiratory protective equipment - face coverings are intended to primarily protect other individuals from the wearer of the face covering.

When the district suspects we have a COVID-19 case in our workplace, we will limit transmission by ensuring that COVID-19 cases are excluded from the workplace until our return-to-work requirements are met.; excluding employees with COVID-19 exposure from the workplace for 14 days after the last known COVID-19 exposure to a COVID-19 case; and continuing and maintaining an employee's earnings, seniority, and all other employee rights and benefits whenever we've demonstrated that the COVID-19 exposure is work related. This will be accomplished by following all protocols adopted by the district.

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.

In working with our parents, families and other stakeholders, we solicited input by a variety of means. During distance learning, Monday was the day that was designated for packet pick-up and drop off. Students and their families were polled regarding options for reopening school. This was in both written form as well as in-person

and distance interviews. The District also solicited input through the public comment portion of each Board of Trustees meeting. As a result of these thorough interactions, we have had not one instance of pushback or questioning of protocols and procedures. Everyone is pleased to get the students back to school, even on a hybrid basis. When parents and stakeholders expressed concerns, we were able to speak with them individually and successfully resolve any concerns.

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:
- 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 scan 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.

Michael Borgaard, Superintendent
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