

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services December 2021

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/BILLS117hr1319enr.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 School Operation Guidance:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schoolschildcare/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_FINALbocd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d3oaff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.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: **Alta Vista Elementary School District**

Option for ensuring safe in-person instruction and continuity of services has developed a plan in 2021 and has amended the plan in 2022.

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.

Alta Vista Elementary School District (AVESD) maintains a close working relationship with the local Health Department to determine the current conditions. Interestingly enough, the Covid-19 pandemic remains fluid, and AVESD is in constant review of the available data, and this information drives the decision making process. Student and staff safety remain paramount in the decision making process. Despite all of the unreliable shifts at the political level, AVESD remains dedicated to seeking solutions that will return students to full time status in the safest environment possible utilizing all the available resources at our disposal. All of the points below contribute to our decision making process:

- AVESD closely monitors advisories from the Tulare County Health Department, the current numbers have maintained around a 1.2 positivity as indicated by the [Tulare County HHSa covid19tularecounty.ca.gov](https://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/health/hhsa/covid19) The current case rate per day is now 1.3.
- The district receives ongoing updates from the Tulare County Office of Education, and we are immediately informed of the current conditions regarding Covid-19.
- AVESD currently follows all recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control(CDC), or if the CDC has revised its guidance, they will update the ESSER III plan.
- Board Policies remain current utilizing the Gamut process provided by the California School Boards Association (CSBA).
<http://www.gamutonline.net/district/altavista/>
- There is an ongoing shift to a paperless work environment where staff, students, and parents have immediate access to student grades and materials.
- All students, staff, and parents have received information to help them through the system when they have a sick child. This includes consultation with our Nurse Practitioner and access to rapid testing.

- The District Maintains a full time Nurse Practitioner on staff.
- We recommend Physical distancing as per current CHD recommendations, which is currently at three feet for classrooms and cafeteria purposes.
- Students and staff will have face coverings available during all times on campus.
- The district has purchased ionizers for ongoing air purification and has installed
- MERV 13 filters were installed and later changed to a MERV 8 which filters and maintains the health of students and air conditioners/heaters. Service will be conducted on a regular basis.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will be maintained at the highest standards using the best equipment possible to ensure a clean and ready learning environment.
- All students have the option to wear masks in the classroom while under instruction from the teacher.
- AVESD will provide modern and up-to-date immediate COVID-19 testing products to provide information regarding containment in a timely manner.
- All students and staff have access to the appropriate PPE to ensure safety.
- AVESD will continue to offer hot meals to all Alta Vista students. This includes breakfast and lunch that is served in a clean and healthy learning environment.

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 food services.

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.

In the current learning environment, 100% of AVESD students and their families have returned to face to face instruction, thus leaving 0% electing to receive instruction via remote learning. The technology is still in place to support remote learning, and to ensure the same access to the curriculum as the students who are attending face to face. The district committed significant funding allocations to hire consultants to help with SEL and learning loss issues in the classroom. Coupled with the ongoing training that teachers received and what they will continue to receive, AVESD is indeed flexible and prepared to utilize whatever learning schema deemed necessary. The district is in a constant state of improvement and this is reflected in the services we offer students who require specific intervention based on their areas of need.

- AVESD is a 95% unduplicated services school district, most if not all students qualify to access additional services.

- The District has a full time Community Liaison on staff who works with parents and students whenever they encounter obstacles in the learning process in the area of attendance and services. This person goes out to the homes to help families in the case of isolation, lack of services, and additional external services.
- The District has a full time Nurse Practitioner on staff to help students and their families with their health needs, and there is also a Health Aide that works directly with family and local services to make the necessary connections.
- AVESD has a full time behavioral intervention specialist that works with students in the areas of improving behaviors while working in close relationship with the other special and general services available on site.
- The District offers the services of a full-time mental health therapist to help with students who are facing difficulties in returning to school, or to help them find the treatment and resources to help them adjust to the current conditions.
- AVESD currently has a full-time Intervention Specialist on campus to help identify students with specific challenges, and to align the district provided intervention services based on relevant and consistent data following the MTSS format.
- All students are 1:1 computer ratio and can be switched to an effective remote learning model immediately if needed.
- The teachers have been trained extensively on how to use the online model effectively.
- There are sufficient hotspots and internet access to ensure 100% participation coupled with consistent upgrades to ensure the best system possible.
- The district continues to upgrade and improve technology utilized by the students, this is an ongoing process.
- The district continues to expand the internet infrastructure including increased bandwidth and the installation of a new tower to increase access.
- All teachers, including special education, have received huge technology upgrades in terms of touch technology, programming, video capabilities, access to the ongoing curriculum, and new modern laptops.
- The district has a sufficiency in materials that support online learning, which will be a viable option for parents to choose in the coming year.
- The district fully supports the MTSS model as indicated in solid planning, accentuating the importance of Tier I services in the classroom. This is supported by 190 days of staff development provided by the Tulare County Office of Education.
- AVESD will continue to press forward in the area of Literacy Development, Chronic Absenteeism, and working with TCOE and the DA process.

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 the past year and a half, AVESD pioneered new ways to communicate with staff, parents, and students. Interestingly enough, it was discovered that many parents chose to participate utilizing the Zoom platform. This was a huge shift in the parent involvement process and the numbers were staggering. Parents received multiple surveys in the spring and the input provided helped us develop the current plan for reopening. We will continue to provide access to parents through ongoing meetings. The district has an instructional leadership team that provides input from the classified and certificated instruction team. This revised plan includes information from the recent approval of the ESSER III plan.

- Parents were invited to fill out a brief Community member survey to provide input during the LCAP and SSC process.
- Teachers will provide ongoing input through the Instructional Leadership team meetings including classified, administrative, and certificated staff.
- There was a public hearing at the July Board meeting and a plan to review in December of 2021. Information regarding the plan will be posted on the district website where the draft plan will be available for review and commentary.
- Information will be available on the District Marquis.
- Community input will be accepted on multiple levels in order to hear and respect all input.
- The LEA will submit a copy to the Tulare COE for additional community input.
- The LEA is increasing the frequency of parent/SSC/Delac meetings to insure participation.
- The student council will be included in the updating process.
- The LEA returned to the educational community through the ESSER III in the fall of 2021 to seek out new information and suggestions as to what we could do to improve the delivery of instruction and to better support the community of learners.

In addition, the LEA provides the following assurances:

X 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:

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

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

X 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.

X 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.

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

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

X 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 Safe Return Plan has been updated in the Fall of 2022 and will continue to be maintained until the expiration of ESSER resources.

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.

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