

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/guidanceeuseseseinvestment.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:

Alum Rock Union Elementary School District

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.

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1617908191/arusdorg/ixig1iudpcvntsr9ocll/COVID19PreventionProgram.pdf>

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.

Alum Rock School District has implemented safety protocols to ensure staff and students are as protected as possible from Covid-19. Anyone on District property is expected to wear a properly fitting mask and socially distance from each other. Plexiglass shields are equipped on all desks for students, teachers and front office areas. Cleaning and disinfection protocols have been updated to meet Covid-19 standards from the CDC. Air filters have been upgraded and portable air purifiers have been placed in all rooms to provide an extra layer of air circulation. Health safety checks are in place at school sites for anyone entering the sites.

According to Santa Clara County Public Health Guidance, spaces occupied by students and staff increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission. To decrease this risk, Alum Rock School District encourages ventilation of all indoor spaces. In addition to keeping windows and doors open, the use of fans blowing air away from students and staff correlates directly with the county's guidance "to avoid blowing air from one person to another." This increased ventilation moves air from indoors to the outdoors, which creates an effective airflow.

In addition, Alum Rock School District employs the use of stable cohorts to minimize COVID-19 transmission at all sites. In alignment with guidance from Santa Clara County, students remain in stable cohorts throughout the entire school day. Teachers and staff remain with their cohort to the fullest extent possible. These cohorts also remain together during any meal breaks and throughout outdoor play. By keeping these cohort groups consistent, COVID-19 spread is decreased and contact tracing of any potential cases is enhanced due to limited exposure within a cohort.

We are waiting for updated school guidance for the 2021-2022 school year, which will be the guide for reopening schools in August 2021.

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.

ARUSD will ensure continuity of academic services for all students through a data based approach and careful performance monitoring. Diagnostic assessments will be administered to all students at the outset of the school year via the FASTbridge and ESGI systems to establish baseline student performance in math and reading. This data will assist us in identifying student learning gaps and opportunities for growth, and guide our professional development efforts for teachers and families. In addition, student data will be used to identify students in need of academic interventions. Through a combination of teacher directed and community based organizations we will provide interventions and monitor program effectiveness through benchmark data, at midyear and end of year intervals.

We will establish community learning hubs at each school site that will include staffing and resources to ensure homework support and tutoring services, as well as access to technology and connectivity for students and families to complete school work and homework. The learning hubs will also provide a space to conduct parent training sessions. Sessions will focus on parent input curated through surveys, and potential topics include strategies for assisting children with homework, developing proficiency with digital literacy, among others.

We will continue utilizing our edtech platforms & programs such as Nearpod, Seesaw, Google Workplace, as well as programs to support English Learners such as Listenwise, BrianPOP EL and others. Teacher and student proficiency and familiarity with these programs will allow us to pivot toward distance learning if the need arises. In addition, we are expanding our use of the Clever platform as a single sign-on portal, streamlining the process and location for students and parents to access their online materials. Combining synchronous and asynchronous instruction and student and teacher familiarity with our online platforms such as Seesaw and Google Classroom will allow us to transition instruction from in person to hybrid when the need arises. The expectation will be to continue to utilize our platforms for communication of assignments, accessing student work, and home/school communication. Guidelines will be provided for teachers and families with specific requirements aligned to assignments and delivery methods for student work.

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.

Our LEA provided the public the opportunity to provide feedback on services and programming through surveys where parents and students were able to provide suggestions regarding what was working and identify gaps that needed to be addressed. Parents provided feedback regarding learning platforms and intervention programs.

Our LEA also provided public comment opportunities during our June 10, 2021 Board meeting.

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://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1617908191/arusdorg/ixig1iudpcvntrs9ocll/COVID19PreventionProgram.pdf>

- 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.

Tereasa Smith Rene Sanchez Norma Flores