

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:

Arvin Union Elementary School District

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.

The Arvin Union School District received notification from Kern County Public Health on March 3, 2021 that the COVID safety plan submitted on March 3rd, 2021 had been approved utilizing the documents that are currently posted at <https://www.arvinschools.com/Content/170>. This plan was forwarded to CDPH K-12 Safety Review, however, the district received a notification acknowledging the safety plan submission which stated that at that time the safety review process had been retired.

The district has amended its safety plan to meet new guidelines and will implement revised protocols with the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Documents within the safety plan include the CPP (COVID-19 Prevention Program), the district Return to School Planning Guide based on the COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist provided by the California Department of Public Health, and this document.

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.

The Arvin Union School District ended the 2020-2021 school year and completed Summer School 2021 with no in-school transmission of COVID-19. The district followed CDC, CDPH, and Kern County Public Health guidance. Any mitigating factors will be modified immediately to comply changing regulations from federal, state, or local agencies.

The district has maintained strategies for preventing the spread of COVID-19 during the Return To School reopening utilizing the plan as follows with a focus on layered mitigation strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools:

1. Masks are required for all district employees, students, and visitors when on school campuses, indoors, and when students are present. Recent guidance provides that while outdoors masks are not required, however, the district continues to encourage use when not able to social distance. Staff are required to show verification of vaccination as guidance allows to not wear a mask when students are not present but mask wearing is recommended. Those unable to wear a mask due to a medical reason, mental health, or disability are to contact the district office to determine what accommodations can be made. N-95 masks are available to all non-vaccinated staff upon request, as is additional PPE for specific circumstances such as diapering or hand over hand support of students.
2. The district has partnered with Adventist Health to provide vaccination opportunities for all staff members. The district has also advertised local vaccination opportunities for staff and students.
3. Regular hand-washing is essential to limiting the spread of COVID-19. The district's Maintenance, Operations, Safety, and Warehouse departments ensure that bathrooms are in full operation and that soap, disinfectant, and sanitizer are available at all times for appropriate uses.
4. When circumstances require specific policies or practices designed to protect the health and safety of students to be implemented, 504 and IEP teams will determine if modifications and/or reasonable accommodations are needed for individual cases.
5. Bottled water refilling stations will be reinstated, and bottles are being ordered for all students. Students are encouraged to bring their own refillable bottles to school. Students will not be able to drink directly from water fountains. Water filters are being replaced and water run to ensure build-up from lack of use is filtered through prior to student use.
6. Everyone on district premises is encouraged to continue to practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible throughout the school day. Schools have modified classroom set up to provide social distancing to maximize 3 feet as everyone returns to campus. Buses will seat two to a seat to promote distancing with a space between students. Lunches and activities will ensure spacing between students and staff.
7. Plexiglass partitions will remain in all district offices, however, student shields will be removed.
8. Activities that require students, staff, or families to congregate will be limited and modified as guidelines change. All staff will work to keep students socially distanced throughout the day including arrival and departure times. This includes PE, recess, and lunch.
9. The implementation of stable groups within grade levels at school sites and down to the classroom level will be promoted whenever feasible. Classes at the middle school have been constructed to promote students remaining with a stable group for the largest period of the day possible. Classroom desks are to remain free of papers and materials to facilitate nightly cleaning.
10. Restrictions on visitors, after hours events, and travel remain in place yet have been relaxed to support essential functions.
11. Staff and students' families will be expected to self-monitor prior to arrival at school. Paperwork previously used for self-screening has been discontinued for students, yet staff are expected to continue to fill out the STOP-it App prior to coming to work. If a student or employee is experiencing any symptoms on the checklist or a temperature of 100.4, they are expected to stay home unless cleared. Any symptoms or exposure prompting a warning is to be considered a denied pass to entry unless verified and cleared by a supervisor or school nurse.
12. If a student experiences any COVID-19 symptoms, they will be sent to the designated isolation room until picked up by a parent/guardian. Staff members may be sent home.

13. The district will follow procedures utilizing Appendices A, B, and C of the CPP regarding hazard identification, hazard assessments, contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine. It is important for all involved with the school system do their part to identify possible symptoms, report hazards, and identify close contacts.
14. If a staff member or student tested positive for COVID-19, the district will follow the County School Exposure Management Plan consistent with Public Health Guidelines. This includes following contact tracing protocols utilizing Appendix C of the CPP. Our trained staff interview multiple individuals in every positive case to identify any potential close contacts, dates of potential exposure, and locations that require deep cleaning. We notify the affected individuals, Kern County Public Health, district supervisors, and the custodial team in order to respond as quickly as possible to support our staff, students, and the community. Triggers for school closure will be followed if case rates so indicate.
15. The district's Maintenance, Operations, Transportation, and Safety Department will continue to follow the comprehensive plan for cleaning and disinfecting school facilities to ensure schools and office buildings are clean, sanitized, and safe.
16. The district will continue to modify its safety plans and procedures as local, state and county guidelines change. The district will continue to work closely with the Kern County Department of Public Health and the Kern County Superintendent of Schools regarding following guidelines for the reopening protocols for schools.
17. The district will continue to follow the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (CAL/OSHA) guidelines.
18. The district has updated and, upon board approval of this plan, will post the Covid-19 Prevention Plan. (CPP) This plan will continue to be updated as necessary.
19. The district had initially completed and posted the state COVID-19 School Guidance Checklist, and has utilized this checklist to update the most current Return to School Plan which will continue to be updated as necessary.
20. The district will continue to provide schools additional supplies and personnel to assist with cleaning, sanitation, social distancing, and other measures.
21. All plans are posted on the district website, and information is distributed to parents and staff through Parent Square and Facebook. Staff also receive email updates.

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.

The Arvin Union School District has provided Chromebooks on a one-to-one basis to all students in the district and hotspots to those who do not have access to internet. In addition, headphones have been distributed to students who need them. Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, the district implemented a variety of online teaching tools to provide the highest possible quality education to all students during school closure. This foundational work and these resources will continue to be utilized in the 2021-2022 school year for in-person instruction and if necessitated to support though isolation, quarantine, or closure.

1. In the case of isolation, quarantine, or future closure, the district will ensure continuity of services by following state guidance with the capacity for virtual instruction and daily interaction. The district is equipped to provide instruction in-person, in a hybrid-model, or fully through distance learning if necessary. In addition, Independent Study plans are being formulated and will be in place for the beginning of the school year for those students whose parents have identified as at risk for in-person instruction or short term for excluded pupils. Independent Study policies, guidelines, and enrollment forms may be found on the district website or at any school site following board adoption and will be updated as needed following the most updated guidance. If a student requires short term Independent Study due to quarantine or isolation due to a COVID-related situation, the assigned teacher will accommodate needs by sending work home either physically or through the CANVAS platform. This online learning management system serves as a framework for teaching, learning, and support in conjunction with Zoom and TEAMS. Specifically, these systems provide: assignments, resources, materials, and

assessments; conferencing and communication tools; asynchronous teaching tools for students to access; collaboration tools including KAMI for teacher and peer feedback; and attendance/participation monitoring.

2. The district has provided grab and go meals, a seamless summer feeding program, and will begin lunches during the return to school in the classrooms or at outside tables. Cafeteria use will be limited and utilized to support student meals as needed to accommodate lunch schedules with safety. The district will be ready to return to grab and go meals if required.
3. For the school years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, the district is planning to use ESSER III, LCAP, and Title funds to identify, reengage, and support students most likely to have experienced the impact of interrupted learning time.
4. The district will continue to provide social workers, district nurses, and expand outreach personnel to address academic, emotional, and mental health needs. Utilization of PBIS Rewards online will continue to promote on and off campus behaviors which are positive for school success. All students have access to social services resources and staff connect families with additional agency support as needed.
5. The district has invested heavily in 3 year commitments for math and English Language Development Professional Development (PD) including workshops, site walkthroughs, reviews of data, and coaching. This includes intensive PD institutes on July 28 and 29, 2021; November 12, 2021; and January 6 and 7, 2022 followed with similar institutes in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years.
6. The district is restructuring it's assessment calendar with a focus on formative assessments to guide instruction with the belief that student and teacher time is best spent in teaching and learning utilizing assessment only as needed to guide instruction. District analysis of student needs will include I-Ready, 95% Group, STAR Renaissance, and Core Growth. Grade level use of very short cycle formative assessments will be encouraged with the use of Freckle, New Quizzes in CANVAS, IAB instructor view, and classroom based cycles of inquiry with a focus on actions and implementation of strategies to close learning gaps.
7. Results from California Healthy Kids Surveys will guide engagement strategies in areas identified as most impactful. Students will be identified for social emotional support utilizing RULER check-ins supported through PBIS Rewards and daily check-ins. Staff supervisors will conduct regular check-ins with staff to support social, emotional, and mental health needs as well as providing professional guidance and support utilizing Tools for the Thoughtful Classroom.
8. Intervention teachers, instructional aides and expanded learning programs will be utilized to extend academic support and to promote engagement based on student needs. Students who are identified with the most need will participate in small group instruction. Support services include language arts, math, and English Language Development intervention.
9. The 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years have been extended for 5 days utilizing Extended School Funds and ESSER III funds and may be used, given further input, to expand additional time. In addition, summer programs were extended to include the full school day which will be continued with a strong focus on small group intervention and focused standards addressed with the support of I-Ready Standards Mastery.
10. In order to mitigate interrupted learning, 3 additional intervention teachers have been hired (one for each elementary school) and a single subject Language Arts Intervention Teacher added at the middle school. Teachers have been assigned to Independent Study, and staffing will continue to be modified as needs are identified.
11. Parent liaison and special projects staff positions have been modified to ensure outreach capacity and extension of days/hours available for service. The Arvin Union School District has prioritized family engagement.
12. The district has expanded the hours of instructional assistants as well as the number of positions available to support small group practice. These expanded hours include specific targets to K-3 95% Group Interventions and Title III English Learner support expansion as well as Resource Specialist assistants.
13. Virtual systems to serve students with a disability, such as tele-therapy platforms, are in place and can be deployed for home instruction if necessary.
14. The Family Resource Center and the district's McKinney-Vento Homeless/Foster coordinator reaches out to families identified for enrollment in the McKinney-Vento program prioritizing participating families with services upon enrollment.
15. IEP's have been, and continue to have the capacity to be held through virtual means if necessary during a school closure. Meetings will be scheduled to accommodate family schedules as much as possible.

Parents/Guardians may request an IEP meeting to discuss particular changes to the student program provided through an alternate format of service delivery such as Independent Study.

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 district has gathered public comments and feedback for in-person instruction and Expanded Learning Opportunities as required by Assembly Bill 86. The Arvin Union School District used parent and staff surveys, consultation meetings with Arvin Teachers Association and California School Employees Association, meetings with parent advisory councils/district administrators/and community partners to develop the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant. An online survey was recently sent out to parents and staff and regular board meetings have included a reopening section in the Superintendent report to hear updates regarding district plans and reopening preparations as well as an opportunity for discussion. These input formats provided opportunities for stakeholders to address supplemental and support strategies to be implemented. Data collected from these surveys and input sessions indicated four important areas of focus related to school re-opening: 1) access to student mental health and well being supports, 2) safety protocol requirements, 3) increase in student engagement, interaction, and reconnection with others, and 4) academic support to address interrupted learning.

This plan was presented to the Board of Education on July 29, 2021 for further public comment and feedback.

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:

to be posted and link inserted upon board approval

- 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.

Georgia Rhett, Superintendent 737 Bear Mountain Blvd., Arvin, CA 93203 Kern County Phone number 661-854-6511 Email rhett@arvin-do.com