

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:

Sunnyvale 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.

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.

Sunnyvale SD will follow all local and state mandates associated with masking, physical distancing and testing.

PPE – the district is requiring students and staff to wear face masks while on campus except for when eating and drinking. Students are eating meals in cohorts to minimize the opportunity for spread. Staff have been provided with PPE bins to ensure that staff and students have face masks available should they arrive without one or the one they are using becomes soiled during the day.

Cleaning and Hygiene practices – frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing is being modeled to students by classroom teachers. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed in all classrooms throughout the school district.

Staff have been instructed to promptly notify their respective front office should they run out of hand sanitizer or hand soap. Staff have been offered the opportunity to take the Integrated Pest Management 20-minute class and be provided with a refillable supply of an EPA N-list disinfectant that can be used to supplement the disinfecting efforts of the site custodian. Additionally, custodians have been provided with and instructed on how to use electrostatic sanitizing misters to efficiently and thoroughly disinfect surfaces.

Air Filtration - HVAC systems have been upgraded with MERV 13 or better air filters. In the event an existing HVAC system cannot accommodate a Merv 13 or better air filter, a HEPA rated air scrubber is provided for that room.

Community Vaccination Events – Sunnyvale SD has worked in partnership with the City of Sunnyvale and the County of Santa Clara to hold multiple community vaccination events, including those most recently at Columbia Middle School and Sunnyvale Middle School. Vaccinations are also available at the Columbia Neighborhood Center which is located on the Columbia Middle School Campus

Screening – The District will continue to utilize a digital daily symptom screener for all staff, students, and visitors to school sites and the District Office as required by State and Santa Clara County guidelines.

Quarantine- The District will continue to maintain a Health and Wellness Room at each school site in order to isolate students in accordance with Santa Clara guidelines.

Testing – As per CalOSHA Emergency/Temporary guidelines, the District will make available free COVID-19 testing through community partners such as the El Camino Hospital District, for employees who are not fully vaccinated and are exhibiting symptoms and/or are potentially exposed to COVID-19 in the workplace.

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.

ACADEMIC

During the Spring it was decided to move to NWEA assessments for students in grades 2-8. The assessment data was used to consider what additional supports and resources would be needed for students. Districtwide goals will focus on strengthening MTSS teams at each site with ongoing coaching regarding identification of student needs and how to systematically address the needs of students identified with district approved intervention strategies and tools.

In addition, we have added a full time release teacher at every site to work with students to support equitable outcomes. Additional coaching support has been added and a new position created for an Equity ToSA to support the district focus on equity.

Students have all been provided with technology so that they can more easily stay connected and access resources in the event that quarantine or future school closures. In addition, hotspots are made available to students/families who have this need to access online assessments and curriculum resources.

In the event that "Distance Learning" is the most feasible alternative means of providing the pupil's IEP under the emergency circumstances (i.e. isolation, quarantine) and/or public health orders, "Distance Learning" means instruction in which the pupil and instructor are in different locations, and may include interaction, instruction, and check-ins between teachers, pupils, and families through the use of a computer or communications technology (video/audio), and/or the use of print materials, based on student needs. This applies to the special

education and related services in the IEP, including transition and extended school year services, to the greatest extent feasible in light of the emergency circumstances. Supplementary aids and services in the IEP will also be provided in the general/special education distance learning environment, to the greatest extent applicable and feasible.

As soon as is practical, following the determination that instruction or services, or both, cannot be provided either at the school or in person for more than 10 days due to a qualifying state of emergency, the parent will be notified as to the specific alternative means by which the student's IEP will be provided, in light of the emergency circumstances present at the time. Teletherapy and synchronous supports will be provided via zoom or other platforms.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL

The District will continue to improve its MTSS system so that students who require intensive behavior & social-emotional interventions are identified and supports are provided adapting the system to individual site & student needs.

Teachers serving students with more intensive mental health needs will be provided more intensive instruction and coaching on how to better embed social emotional learning into their classes. Second Step and other SEL framework will be used as the core curriculum in all classes. All instructional staff will be provided ongoing coaching and resources regarding trauma informed practices.

MENTAL HEALTH

The District will continue with Community Health Awareness Council (CHAC) and local partnerships: Playworks, Project Cornerstone, Center for Reaching and Teaching the Whole Child (CRTWC), Acknowledge Alliance, Columbia Neighborhood Center (CNC). in order to provide on site and community based counseling services for students, staff, & families. School social workers will continue working with their MTSS teams to provide case management to students/families and connecting families to additional supports (i.e. food, shelter) when needed.

FOOD SERVICE

In the current environment, all schools will continue to offer individually wrapped meals (breakfast, lunch, snack, and supper where it is allowable) for all students on campus. Because of the Child Nutrition waivers that are in place for the 2021-2022 school year, the district will continue to offer meal bundles, for pick-up, to children in our community ages 0-18. If in the future the county experiences another quarantine that results in school closures, the district will offer grab-and-go meal bundles for our student community. These bundles will be available for pick-up via drive-thru or socially distanced walk-up.

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 Sunnyvale School District held one Community Forum a month from March through June with a total of 454 members of the public attending virtually via the platform Zoom.

Each forum included updates regarding our return to in-person instruction plans. Topics such as the District's plans for Summer School, first day of school anticipated guidelines for 2021-2022, and how we plan to have a Restorative Restart by focusing on equitable outcomes for all students, increasing social workers and counselors, offering resilience coaching for staff, trauma-informed training for staff and more after school programs.

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 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.

Dr. Michael Gallagher, Superintendent, 819 W. Iowa Avenue, Sunnyvale, California, 94087, Santa Clara County, (408) 522-8200 x1001
 Mala Ahuja, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services, 819 W. Iowa Avenue, Sunnyvale, California, 94087, Santa Clara County, (408) 522-8200 x1004
 Dr. Tasha Dean, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education/Student Services, 819 W. Iowa Avenue, Sunnyvale, California, 94087, Santa Clara County, 408-522-8200 x1005
 Jeremy Nishihara, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, 819 W. Iowa Avenue, Sunnyvale, California, 94087, Santa Clara County, 408-522-8200 x1010
 Brandt Burns, Director of Facilities and Operation, 819 W. Iowa Avenue, Sunnyvale, California, 94087, Santa Clara County, 408-522-8200 x1009
 Lori van Gogh, Chief Business Officer, 819 W. Iowa Avenue, Sunnyvale, California, 94087, Santa Clara County, 408-522-8200 x1007