

# 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](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](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](mailto: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](mailto:EmergencyServices@cde.ca.gov).

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

LEA Name:

Liberty 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.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) provides substantial federal resources to support states and local school districts. As a result, local school districts are required to develop a plan, which details the safe return to in-person instruction and the continuity of services. This plan is developed with stakeholder feedback and will be monitored and revised based on ongoing review through September 30, 2023

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.

PLAN UPDATE 03/16/2022:

The District will return to pre-pandemic mitigation strategies. Should health conditions shift or stakeholder feedback necessitate, the district will assemble its Safety Team to review conditions and mitigation strategies and offer necessary revisions.

- Physical distancing: The District will return to pre-pandemic protocols. Physical distancing will be recommended, but not required.
- Handwashing: Handwashing will be emphasized throughout the school day. Hand sanitizers will be placed throughout the buildings and students will be encouraged to sanitize their hands when entering and again when leaving a classroom. Cough and sneeze etiquette will be taught, monitored, and reinforced.
- Facilities: District cleaning protocols will return to pre-COVID routines. Ventilation UV-C HVAC upper-air units to destroy pathogens.
- Contact tracing: Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health department will be based upon CDPH guidance for all highly infectious diseases. The school nurse or administration will notify local health officials. Testing may be completed at school or sites in Tulare and Visalia will be provided to staff members and families.
- Vaccinations: The district will encourage faculty, staff, and students to be vaccinated, but respect "individual choice" to withhold for religious, medical, or philosophical reasons.
- Accommodations for children with disabilities: The district will build a health plan to meet the unique health needs of students. This could include home instruction or further mitigation efforts in the school setting.
- Masks: Per CDPH, face coverings are recommended for everyone when indoors in K-8 school settings. Accordingly, at this time face coverings are not required for all children and adults, regardless of vaccination status while indoors at Liberty Elementary school campus and while riding the bus.

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.

Liberty Elementary School District is committed to the highest academic and developmental outcomes for each student. The District will continue to follow the Liberty Elementary School District Learning Recovery and Extended Learning Plan to identify academic needs, address academic gap filling and identify social and emotional needs.

Teachers formally and informally assess students frequently to identify individual student goals and needs. Administrators and teachers administer and analyze data from multiple sources throughout the school year to ensure timely identification and response to observed gap areas. Assessments to support this work include, but are not limited to:

1. KRA for kindergarten students
2. K-3 Reading Oral Language Assessment (ROLA)
3. STAR in reading and math to students in grades 1-8
4. STAR literacy and math screeners to students in grades 1-8
5. Phonics Screeners for all K-2 to assist all teachers in identifying student needs in decoding and sound knowledge
6. Teacher formative assessments
7. State Assessments/End of Unit Exams
8. AP and IB assessments
9. Attendance Data will be analyzed collaboratively to identify students with learning needs or gaps

The District will continue to follow the Liberty Elementary School District Expanded Learning Opportunities Plan to identify student academic needs, address academic gap findings and social and emotional needs.

Learning Opportunities Grant Plan Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mlkUm7P0-e19CtcsigTC2vLQMpZHEaE1/view?usp=sharing>

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 Liberty Elementary School District utilizes multiple means of gaining public input, including, but not limited to;

- Liberty Teacher Association LTA/CTA/NEA
- Liberty Parent Teacher Advisory Committee (LPTA)
- Liberty Elementary School Board of Trustees
- School Site Council Committee (SSC)

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://www.libertyelementary.org>

- 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.

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