

# 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:

Antioch Unified 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 Antioch Unified School District has created a compliant plan with the IFR using this template and has posted it within 30 days of completing the ESSER III Assurances, the plan can be found at:

<https://www.antiochschools.net/covid>

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.

In compliance with guidance from the CDC and the California Department of Public Health (CDHP), the Antioch Unified School District has aligned all school site safety policies to include COVID prevention strategies with proper masking, physical distancing, hand washing, symptom monitoring, and contact tracing with isolation and quarantine directions. School stakeholders have been notified and provided information around local COVID testing centers and vaccination sites. Moreover, a health resource link of local Contra Costa Health Services has been provided on the district website: <https://www.antiochschools.net/covid>

Current data posted by the Contra Costa Health Services shows a total of 10,406 positive COVID cases, 9,248.1 positive cases per 100,000 residents. In the last 14 days, the city has recorded 219 new cases. In light of the rising COVID cases in the County and City, AUSD notified families of the following safety information in order to provide a safe re-opening of school:

- Students and staff will conduct a daily personal health screening at home prior to arriving to in person learning. Staff and parents will notify the school site if they come into contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive or if they exhibit COVID Symptoms <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- Families opting for virtual learning/independent study can access the enrollment procedures on the district website: <https://www.antiochschools.net/VirtualLearning>
- As required by the California Department of Public Health, students, parents, and staff, will be required to wear a mask indoors when on AUSD Campuses. Any health exemptions will be documented with a doctor's note and submitted to the District Office Student Service Department located at 510 G Street.
- Due to the ongoing health concerns related to the COVID-19 virus, we ask that parents call or email their child's school when needing assistance; at this time, we ask that parents not visit campuses in-person.
- All students and staff will have access to masks, hand sanitizing stations, and temperature checks. Signage will be used to support masking and proper hand hygiene. School buses, classrooms, and furniture will be sanitized daily. A District frequently asked questions document will be updated and available on the District website.
- Asymptomatic, vaccinated close contacts to COVID-19 positive individuals need not quarantine at this time.
- Unvaccinated, asymptomatic close contacts can remain in school if both parties were wearing a mask at the time of exposure. However, they will be quarantined from ALL extra-curricular activities, as required by newly issued guidance from the California Department of Public Health. Students who arrive on campus with COVID-19 symptoms or who are determined to be a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be tested on site to ensure they have not contracted the COVID-19 virus.
- Unvaccinated close contacts who were not wearing masks at the time of exposure will be quarantined per State guidance for up to 10 days after exposure.
- Each school will notify parents if their child has come into close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 (names of students will be kept confidential).
- Students who have to remain home for isolation or quarantine due to exposure will be issued an independent study contract.

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.

AUSD students have access to technology devices and Wi-Fi. Teachers have received extensive professional development to deliver instruction both in-person and virtually. Should isolation or quarantining become necessary, staff and students can quickly pivot to a fully online or hybrid learning environment. Specialized digital platforms have been implemented to meet the needs of English Learners, and include accessibility supports for students to be able to access content. Specialized academic instruction and therapies for student students with disabilities can transition to remote instruction and teletherapy in the event of quarantining and future school closures. AUSD has developed and is delivering an extensive summer learning acceleration program to meet academic and social emotional needs of students. Supports will continue into the fall semester and throughout the school year. MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) will be implemented at all school sites specifically focusing on addressing: self-care, building relationships, responsible decision making, standards based learning, instructional strategies and student achievement and monitoring. Meals are available to all AUSD students throughout the school year, including grab and go meals for students participating in Independent Study, the Thomas Gaines Virtual Academy, or in the event of quarantine or future school closures. Mindfulness practices and self care strategies will continue to be a focus with staff through professional development. In addition, resources for outside clinical supports will be shared and encouraged.

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.

AUSD Educational Services staff consulted with the District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC), the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), and the African American Parent Advisory Committee (AAPAC) on April 8, 2021 and May 6, 2021, to review data on the impact of COVID-19 on students academically, physically, and social emotionally and to discuss and seek feedback on the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Grant Plan, which included actions to be supported by ESSER III funds. AUSD staff, including administrators and teachers, attended these meetings as well as provided feedback remotely.

On May 12, 2021, a presentation on the ELO grant was provided to the Governing Board and the public, and the Board took action to approve the ELO grant on May 26, 2021. No public comments were made in response to the ELO grant. On June 9, 2021, a public hearing was held on the LCAP, and the Governing Board voted to approve the LCAP on June 23, 2021 (<https://www.antiochschools.net/lcap>). One public comment was made on June 23, 2021 advocating for library services at the elementary level. Goal 4 in the 2021-2024 LCAP includes a focus on updating the functionality of our school libraries to media centers in order to provide more comprehensive resources to students, staff, and families.

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.

Jessica Romeo, Deputy Superintendent, [jessicaromeo@antiochschools.net](mailto:jessicaromeo@antiochschools.net) and Christine Ibarra, Associate Superintendent, [christineibarra@antiochschools.net](mailto:christineibarra@antiochschools.net) located at 510 G Street, Antioch, CA 94509, Contra Costa County