

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:

Sacramento Valley Charter School

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 LEA has amended our plan to ensure all compliance points are met and will post it within 30 days of filing the ESSER III Statement of Assurances.

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.

SVCS has proactively updated its website, social media, and sent frequent parent newsletters with the continued evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and the instructional program models used throughout the last 15 months. The school's website includes all of the following guidelines and Plans as required by CDE, CalOSHA, other State and local jurisdictions.

<https://www.sacvalleycharter.org/covid-19.html>

https://www.sacvalleycharter.org/uploads/8/0/9/9/8099840/svcs_covid-19_reopening_handbook_2020-2021.pdf

<https://www.sacvalleycharter.org/covid-19-safety-plan.html>

https://www.sacvalleycharter.org/uploads/8/0/9/9/8099840/2021_covid-19_school_guidance_checklist_sacramento_valley_charter_school_20210310_1_.pdf

https://www.sacvalleycharter.org/uploads/8/0/9/9/8099840/2020_covid-19_prevention_plan_sacramento_valley_charter_school_20210310_1_.pdf

https://www.sacvalleycharter.org/uploads/8/0/9/9/8099840/svcs_reopening_guidebook_-_board_approved.pdf

The Yolo County Health Department and State Health Department website and communication provide the direction and guidance SVCS reviews on a regular basis to evaluate the current public health conditions such as rates of infection, new strains, etc. and the impact this information will have on the continued on-site instructional offerings.

In compliance with CalOSHA's Covid-19 Emergency Temporary Standards we are no longer requiring social distancing. Before June 17th, 2021 students who were interested in returning to school in-person were broken into small cohorts and had 3 feet of distance between their desks. Students who did not feel comfortable returning to school were provided with accommodations (like Chromebooks and Hotspots) so they would be successful in distance learning. All students and staff members are continuing to wear masks at all times when on campus. If students or staff do not have a clean mask when they arrive at school, they are provided a free medical grade disposable mask in an appropriate size. Students are reminded to wear their masks over their nose and mouth at all times unless they are drinking water or eating lunch or snacks. Lunch is served at the student's desk in order to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19. We provide portable handwashing stations outside so that student have access to a handwashing station whether they are in class or at recess. We maintain a clean campus by working closely with our day porter who regularly disinfects all handles and light switches multiple times a day. We also updated our facilities by replacing certain windows that did not open up to allow proper ventilation. We replaced old air conditioning filters with new filters and purchased air purifiers for each classroom. Our vans and busses are cleaned and disinfected daily. As a means of testing, students' temperatures are checked multiple times throughout the day. Students temperatures are checked by the bus drivers before they were allowed on the bus, by the yard supervisors before they were allowed inside the school, and by staff if deemed necessary. If students are symptomatic or appear sluggish/ill, they are isolated and their guardians are contacted to pick them up immediately. SVCS had a room that was used as an isolation room for students who were symptomatic. Parents were responsible for pre-screening their children and asked to keep them at home if they showed any symptoms. Students who were new to our school were assigned independent study for the first 14 days of their education at SVCS before they were allowed to attend in person. SVCS scheduled and provided transportation to a vaccination site for all teachers and staff. Through Yolo County we were serviced by Dignity Health. 99% of our teachers and staff were fully vaccinated in March.

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.

SVCS has a robust support network to meet the needs of students to include instructional aid support, on-campus small cohort instruction, access to counseling services, food services and more. These services will remain available for the duration of the Plan and funding timelines. SVCS has added Summer Intervention/Instruction for June - July 2021, will add enhanced after school programming and will continue summer programs in future year(s) to address learning loss mitigations needed that arose from COVID-19 and the March 2020 - March 2021 time period where the majority of students were participating through distance learning . Free lunch and transportation are provided to Summer Boost students who were recommended by their teachers to specifically target their loss of learning and/ or social emotional needs.

In the case of school closure due to Covid-19, we have a plan in place to immediately transition to virtual learning. Accommodations for students who have a physical or mental disability, emotional disturbance, significant loss of

learning due to lack of supervision or safe environment will be made. One on one, personalized instruction will be provided to these students who are most at risk.

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.

On 3/5/2001, 4/2/2020 and 5/14/2020 the Safe Reopening plan was discussed during School Site Council meetings and the in-person hybrid and cohort models were introduced. This item was agendaized on the 6/18/2021 School Site Council/LCAP Advisory Group Agenda and as a public hearing on the Agenda for the 6/23/2020 SVCS Regular School Board Meeting. All stakeholders and the public are encouraged to provide input in this process and subsequent updates. Parents were also encouraged to respond to surveys sent on 3/17/2020 and 05/1/2020 regarding distance learning and 3 models for reopening.

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.sacvalleycharter.org/uploads/8/0/9/9/8099840/svcs_reopening_guidebook_-_board_approved.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.

Dr. Amrik Singh, Principal, 2399 Sellers Way, West Sacramento, CA 95691 916-596-6422 asingh@sacvalleycharter.org