

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:

Gilroy 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.

Gilroy Unified School District has a compliant plan . Links: GUSD COVID Safety Plan
<https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1616802870/gusdk12caus/dvfwld4spafqqbkog14o/COVID19SchoolGuidanceChecklistREVMar262021.pdf>
GUSD COVID Prevention Program
https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1616687038/gusdk12caus/xvz2wyiigugxa7ljlsur/GUSD_CPP_120120.pdf
and
Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan
https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1600707297/gusdk12caus/iejmntic9b9p9b96wt3j/2020_GUSD_Learning_Continuity_and_Attendance_PlanrevSept162020.pdf

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.

Gilroy Unified School District has policies and plans in place which ensure adherence to CDC's safety guidelines. These include the COVID-19 Operations Written Report adopted June 11, 2020, the Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan (LCP) adopted September 10, 2020, the Reopening Plan for Preschool -5th grade, adopted March 18, 2021, the COVID -19 Safety Plan (CSP) adopted March 18 and updated March 26,2021, the COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) updated March 25, 2021, the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Plan adopted on May 20, 2021 and the Fall Reopening Plan for all students adopted May 7, 2021.

GUSD COVID Safety Plan

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1616802870/gusdk12caus/dvfwld4spafqqbkog14o/COVID19SchoolGuidanceChecklistREVMar262021.pdf>

GUSD COVID Prevention Program

https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1616687038/gusdk12caus/xvz2wyiigugxa7ljlsur/GUSD_CPP_120120.pdf

GUSD Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan:

https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1600707297/gusdk12caus/iejmctic9b9p9b96wt3j/2020_GUSD_Learning_Continuity_and_Attendance_PlanrevSept162020.pdf

Other related information spring elementary reopening: <https://www.gilroyunified.org/reopening-gusd/reopening-preschool-to-5th-grades>

Fall reopening: <https://www.gilroyunified.org/parentstudent-resources/gusd-in-the-news/news/news/~board/district-news/post/may-7-2021-gusd-board-of-education-approves-reopening-committees-recommendation-for-a-full-return-to-in-person-learning-for-all-students>

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, district officials regularly met with the Santa Clara County Health Department and consistently provided updated information to staff in order to ensure adherence to all health and safety guidelines. All district policies and guidelines are in alignment with current Public Health Department and CDC guidelines. As of June 15, 2021, California no longer uses the tiered system.

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.

Gilroy Unified School District is committed to continuity of services to address students' academic needs and other needs for students, staff and families such as social, emotional, mental health and food services. The Learning Continuity and Attendance plan outlined student support during distance learning. The Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Plan adopted May 20, 2021 addresses how students' academic, social, emotional and mental health needs will be addressed upon the full return to school in August 2021. The district is providing additional site-based mental health services, a social emotional learning curriculum, and partners with community agencies for counseling services and family support.

The contingency plan approved by the Board on May 6 addresses the hybrid model that will be in place in the event of future district closure. Students will be provided with devices and will have access to all instructional content and resources. Teachers and staff will continue to receive training and support in the implementation of effective distance learning and in person instructional practices, and support for students' academic and social emotional needs. All students with IEPs will continue to receive services based on their Individualized Education

Plans. Students that are English learners will receive English Language Development and other instructional support.

The district has provided meals to families throughout the period of school closure. This service, which includes weekend meals, continues to be available to all families in the community.

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.

Gilroy Unified School District has engaged stakeholders in the development of plans. Reopening plans were developed by the Superintendent's Committee on Reopening which met throughout the 20-21 school year. The Superintendent presented regular updates at the Board of Education meetings during which public comments were received. The public also had an opportunity to provide feedback on reopening plans by means of surveys sent to all parents and by submitting questions before/after the parent informational sessions. Questions were reviewed and responses provided on the district website, in the reopening handbooks. Labor and parent groups also provided feedback into the development of the COVID Safety Plan, Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan, the Local Control Accountability Plan and the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Plan. Much of the feedback was incorporated into the the actions of the LCAP and ELO plans. Health and safety questions were addressed in parent presentations and staff and community communications.

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://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1616802870/gusdk12caus/dvfwld4spafqqbkogl4o/COVID19SchoolGuidanceChecklistREVMar262021.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.

- X 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. Deborah Flores, Superintendent , 7810 Arroyo Circle, Gilroy, CA 95020
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