

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/guidanceeuseseseinvestment.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:

General Shafter 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.

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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.

COVID-19 POLICY

While General Shafter School has always placed a strong emphasis on a clean environment, good hygiene, and frequent handwashing, we are placing an even stronger emphasis on cleanliness, more frequent handwashing and now, wearing face masks or shields, as appropriate, and social distancing, to prevent the spread of COVID-19. To this end, the following are the steps that we are taking to stay as safe and healthy as we can.

? SCHOOL REOPENING GUIDELINES:

- o Ensure proper ventilation of the building, i.e., airing of classrooms before children arrive.

- o Implement procedures to frequently clean all frequently touched surfaces.
- o Conduct a visual wellness check of all children upon arrival and ask health questions when concerned.
- o Ensure children sanitize their hands on entering the building.
- o Monitor staff and children throughout the day for signs of possible illness. If child exhibits signs of illness, the child will be isolated from the general classroom, and the caregiver will be immediately notified to pick up the child.

? TEACHERS WILL:

- o Wear masks/face shields during the day while indoors when students are in the same room.
- o Encourage students to wear mask. Parent/caregiver of children refusing to wear a mask or face shield will be notified to pick children up and take them home.

? PARENTS/GUDARDIANS WILL:

- o Provide a washable two-layer cloth mask for their child to wear, instruct children on the correct way to put on, wear, and remove their masks
- o Parents may find more guidance on proper mask usage
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Get-the-Most-out-of-Masking.aspx>
- o Provide a clean mask daily for children who are wearing them
- o Provide a filled water bottle for their child daily
- o Wash their own hands and assist in washing their child's hands before drop-off. Parents are also encouraged to wash their hands prior to pick-up, and when they get home
- o Provide a bag or backpack for all personal items, e.g. lunch box, water bottle, etc. to be transported to and from school daily.
- o Wash/clean personal items daily
- ? Cleaning and Disinfection:
- o Teachers will keep each child's belongings separated and in an individually labeled storage container, cubby, or other area.
- o Custodial staff will sanitize all classroom work surfaces, chairs, manipulatives, and other frequently touched items once a day, and as needed.
- o High touch areas of playground structures will be sanitized as needed. This will include climbing structures and swings, as well as outside tables and benches. Playground balls and other portable play equipment will also be sanitized as needed.
- o Student/teacher restrooms will be cleaned/sanitized daily or more often, as needed.
- o Custodial staff will sanitize designated children's rugs.
- o In addition to weekly deep cleaning of all surfaces using hospital grade disinfectants, our janitorial staff will, biweekly, use a commercial grade ozone generator to further disinfect and sanitize all surfaces and materials in the building.

? Entrance, Egress, and Movement within the School:

- o Children will enter and go to their respective classrooms.
- o Students will be reminded to wash their hands and keep their area clean throughout the day. Unless the students are eating or drinking, they will be wearing face masks or shields while performing their in-classroom work.

? Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear:

- o All Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students. This includes guest to school sites.
- o Masks are optional for all in outdoors in K-12 school settings.
- o Teachers will enforce the wearing of face masks or shields for TK through 8th grade children.
- o Students with a qualifying exemption under the CDPH face covering guidance or with an existing Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) that includes a medical diagnosis that is a qualifying basis for an exemption can be exempt

from wearing a mask. District will document the basis for a student's exemption eligibility.

- o Students exempted from wearing a mask due to a medical condition as described above, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.
- o District will offer alternative educational opportunities in the form of Independent Study for students who are excluded from campus because they will not or cannot wear a face covering.
- o A student with exceptional needs, as defined in Section 56026, shall not participate in independent study, unless the pupil's Individualized Education Plan specifically provides for that participation.
- o If students forget their mask or misplace their mask at school the district will provide the student with a mask.
- o Masks are optional outdoors for all c. Masks will be stored on wall hooks by the outdoor exit during outdoor playtime.
- o There will be at least a 2-month supply of masks and shields available for both students and staff.
- o Sneeze guards may be in place at tables where two children may be seated for short periods of time.

? Health Screenings for Students and Staff:

o Teachers/staff will conduct a visual wellness check of all children upon arrival and ask health questions when concerned. Health questions that will be asked are, have you experienced:

? Cough

? Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

? Chills, or repeated shaking with chills

? Fatigue (maybe say "tiredness" for children)

? Muscle pain

? Headache

? Sore throat

? Congestion or runny nose

? Nausea or vomiting

? Diarrhea

? (new) loss of taste or smell

- o Teachers/staff will self-monitor, monitor each other and the children throughout the day for signs of possible illness. If child exhibits signs of illness, the child will be isolated from the general classroom, and the caregiver will be immediately notified to pick up the child. (Isolation will be in a remote section of the classroom, or in space identified by the district) If teacher/staff exhibits signs of illness, they will go home.
- o In the event that two or more children become sick, isolation would take place in remote sections of the classroom and or in space identified by the district, which is not a high traffic area.

? Healthy Hygiene Practices:

- o Handwashing stations are near classrooms on the way to the playground. We have 10 restrooms for student use. Hand sanitizer stations are located at the main entrance to the building, the exit door for the playground and in all the classrooms. Frequent handwashing and the sanitizing of manipulatives and other classroom materials have always been a strong part of the education culture and its regular routine. Normal cleaning routines will be further enhanced with children sanitizing their hands when they enter the building, and either washing or sanitizing their hands before and after meals, after returning from the playground, after using the restroom, and when otherwise deemed necessary.

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.

? Vaccination reporting and COVID – 19 Testing:

- o Pursuant to CDPH Vaccine Verification for Workers in Schools order, staff must either provide proof of vaccination against the COVID-19 virus or undergo weekly testing.
- o Staff may submit proof of vaccine in the following forms:
 - o COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card (issued by the Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control & Prevention or WHO Yellow Card) which includes name of person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided and date last dose administered); OR
 - o a photo of a Vaccination Record Card as a separate document; OR
 - o a photo of the client's Vaccination Record Card stored on a phone or electronic device; OR
 - o documentation of COVID-19 vaccination from a health care provider; OR
 - o digital record that includes a QR code that when scanned by a SMART Health Card reader displays to the reader client name, date of birth, vaccine dates and vaccine type; OR
 - o documentation of vaccination from other contracted employers who follow these vaccination records guidelines and standards.
- o Unvaccinated staff, staff who are not fully vaccinated, or staff whose vaccination status is unknown, must be considered unvaccinated.
- o Unvaccinated staff will be required to test for COVID-19 weekly. Staff may contact Human Resources to obtain information on where they may obtain free testing.

1. Testing of Students and Staff:

2. Recommendations for staying home when sick and getting tested:

- a. Follow the strategy for Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested from the CDC.
- b. Self-test will be made available to any employee who has been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person while at work.
- c. Advise staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
 - i. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
 - ii. Other symptoms have improved; and
 - iii. They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

3. Case reporting, contact tracing and investigation.

- a. Per AB 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.

4. Quarantine recommendations for vaccinated close contacts

- a. For those who are vaccinated, follow the CDPH Fully Vaccinated People Guidance regarding quarantine.

5. Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated students for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask, as required in K-12 indoor settings. These are adapted from the CDC K-12 guidance and CDC definition of a close contact.

- a. When both parties were wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:

- i. Are asymptomatic;
- ii. Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
- iii. Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
- iv. Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

6. Quarantine recommendations for: unvaccinated close contacts who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure; or unvaccinated students as described in #8 above.

- a. For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:
 - i. Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
 - ii. Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
- b. To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must:
 - i. Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND
 - ii. Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.
- c. If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

Independent Study in the Event of Closure Due to COVID-19 or another Emergency

During an unforeseen school closure, General Shafter School will continue to hold classes via Independent Study. Parents can expect a combination of take-home packets (picked up at a pre-arranged time at the school) along with instruction via a technology platform called Google Classroom. Since Google Classroom is not “live” instruction, the lessons can be viewed at a time that is compatible for the child and his or her parents (if parent involvement is needed or desired). For students in the upper elementary class, other Independent Study platforms may be included. Most items that will be needed for lessons will be contained in the take-home packets. If there is a need for additional supplies, it is usually something as simple as paper, scissors, or crayons.

COVID Response Plan

The chart on the following page outlines measures that will be taken when a student, teacher or staff member has symptoms, is a contact of someone infected, or is diagnosed with COVID-19. Information on this chart is copied from a chart published by the California Department of Public Health.

- 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.

General Shafter solicited input from our community and stakeholders through a series of surveys sent out. Also, a series of zoom calls were utilized in both english and spanish to receive input. Feedback and questions regarding sanitizing the school and quarantining were addressed in this plan.

In addition, the LEA provides the following assurances:

- X 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:

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- X The LEA sought public comment in the development of its plan and took those public comments into account in the development of its plan.

- X The LEA will periodically review and, as appropriate revise its plan, at least every six months.

- X 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.

Chris Salyards, CAO 1825 Shafter Road. Bakersfield, CA Kern County