

## **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/guidanceeuseseeinvestment.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:

Round Valley Joint Elementary 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 LEA is submitting a new plan on June 11, 2021 (contained herein). This plan will be posted on our website at <https://rvjesd-ca.schoolloop.com>.

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.

LEA will maintain, or continue to maintain, health and safety policies and procedures as follows:

- Classrooms have been arranged to accommodate a 6-foot distance between desks, with all students facing one direction.
- All classroom supplies will be kept in personal containers at each desk so that there is no sharing of supplies or curricular material. Every supply and textbook will be labeled with the student's name.



- To allow for maximum ventilation while eating, students will eat outdoors.
- Students will practice proper hygiene by washing hands or using hand sanitizer when entering a classroom. Students will properly wear masks when indoors. Students with disabilities will be provided a shield instead of a mask when necessary.
- Symptomatic students will have their temperature checked. Should a student exhibit a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they will be isolated and a parent will be expected to immediately pick them up. Upon pick-up, the parent will be offered an onsite rapid antigen test for their child.
- Following the recommendations of Inyo County Department of Health, 100.4 will be used as an indicator for temporary self-isolation. We expect students to remain at home if any sign of illness is suspected. We anticipate an increase in absenteeism.
- Transportation will be provided. Students will sit separately. Students will be assigned seats and will embark and disembark depending on their bus stop. Masks will be worn on the bus.
- We will expect that parents will be punctual in dropping off and picking up students as there will be no flexibility in before and after school supervision. Drop off will be between 8:05 and 8:15 and pick-up will be between 2:15 and 2:25.
- Campus cleaning will happen daily in classrooms (and on the bus). A disinfecting "fog machine" will be utilized which will reach all surfaces. Additionally, our cleaning crew will clean classrooms and restrooms a second time in the evening. Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the campus and use will be a regular part of student / classroom routine. HEPA filters will be used in all classrooms and the office.
- Should distance learning become necessary, all students will be expected to connect with their daily scheduled classroom meets, make use of Google Classroom for assignment tracking and submittal, and be graded on expected classroom norms. Attendance will be based on daily online participation and completion of assignments. The school will support access to technology to accomplish on-line access. Virtual training videos will be provided to parents to help with this transition to a standardized distance learning model. Packets will be used to supplement on-line learning, not as an alternative.

The LEA will attend weekly meetings with County Public Health. Additional monthly meetings will be attended by all Superintendents of Inyo County Schools. All LEA Plans will be reviewed by County Public Health prior to implementation.

3. The LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs. The social, emotional, mental health, physical health and food services, for both students and staff, will be regularly assessed and continued.

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.

The LEA will ensure continuity of services in case of quarantine or future school closures by providing Distance Learning for individual students, individuals with disabilities, English Language Learners, cohort groups, or whole school as necessary. Each student has an assigned Chromebook and all families have access to Internet within the District. Procedures are in place to make use of Google Classroom should distance learning be needed. Unduplicated students would receive support from an instructional aide to support their IEP, EL, or social /



emotional needs. Currently, the District does not have any identified EL, foster youth or homeless populations. There are six identified special needs students at Round Valley Elementary School receiving speech or other support services.

In the event of a closure, food services would be provided through "Grab and Go" style breakfast and lunch. These would be distributed at bus stops or at the school.

If a student is in need of social / emotional support, he / she will be referred to Behavior Health services.

RVES engages in "Test and Stay" practices. If a student tests positive, classmates may remain at school as long as they continue to wear masks and engage in rapid antigen testing on days five and seven. Per ICPH guidance, the positive student will quarantine at home for ten days with provided independent study.

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.

Stakeholder engagement has been accomplished by providing families, staff and students with specific surveys, by providing the ability to attend monthly remote and in person Board Meetings, and by holding weekly staff/Union meetings with specific agenda items that look toward future goals. The Superintendent attended twice weekly Zoom meetings which included SELPA input. Parents attended several whole school Zoom meetings to share ideas and concerns about progressing through the pandemic. We also increased our parent communication letters to happen weekly to keep families informed of the many changes and responsibilities that came out of the pandemic. Our records indicate that we have reached 100% of our families with emails and texts on each delivery. Because our demographics are not diverse (no substantial subgroups except socioeconomically disadvantaged), we don't specifically hold committee meetings for EL students, for example, because we don't have any identified EL students. Since our SED subgroup is 42% of our students, we are targeting a high population while at the same time serving all students with the same high quality instructional methods. Philosophically, we feel all students deserve the best we can provide and with our small class sizes ranging from 9 to 12, we can target any child in need.

Our families have been very happy and supportive of the direction the school has taken during the pandemic and the fact that we were able to be back in seat in October 2020 and remained in-seat. This helped the school year seem "normal" to families and students. Surveys on the subject reflect this satisfaction. Parent input has driven changes in bussing, lunch distribution, lunch distribution sites, even drop-and-go student drop off and pick-up. Parents also feel that their children are safe and protected while at school according to survey results. Parent surveys are sent to all families and results are applied to all students. Trends shown by surveys reveal that parents are supportive of the academic success made by their students, that they are not interested in a summer school program, and that more families want bussing in their neighborhoods.

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://rvjesd-ca.schoolloop.com/>

- ☒ 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.