

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:

Cuddeback Union Elementary School

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 has a compliant plan that can be accessed at <https://www.cuddebackschool.org/>

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.

Cuddeback School has an adopted a COVID-19 School Site-Specific Protection Plan (SSPP) based on the template SiteSpecific Protection Plan provided by Humboldt County Office of Education and Humboldt County Public Health. Cuddeback School also has a Cal-OSHA Covid Protection Plan designed to control exposures to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that may occur in our workplace, as well as an Injury Illness and Prevention Plan COVID 19 Addendum, which is attached as Appendix A-1, and is considered part of this COVID-19 Prevention Program. These plans are also informed by the American Academy of Pediatrics "COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Reentry", and incorporate past and current Humboldt County Public Health Orders and requirements, updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, and the California Department of Public Health and the California Department of Education. These plans have been modified to meet specific guidance and

requirements for schools and school offices and are intended to ensure schools and school/district offices have well developed and thorough plans in place and remain in compliance. The LEA's Plan for Safe Return to InPerson Instruction and Continuity of Services is based on these plans.

All persons entering the campus will be required to wear a face covering (mask and/or shield). All staff and students TK-8 grades are required to wear protective face coverings to the best of their ability while indoors or in common areas (hallways, outside corridors). Disposable masks are provided for anyone without one. All persons are encouraged to wear a face covering outdoors if they are unable to maintain 6 ft. distance from others. Students are instructed on proper care and wear of face coverings, proper hand washing, and social distancing. Hand sanitizing dispensers are located at entry points to each classroom and office building, along with readily available and accessible smaller portable bottles of sanitizer throughout classrooms and school buildings. Sinks and soap for hand washing are located in each restroom and in each classroom. Other PPE (gloves, N-95 masks, aprons) are available at no cost to staff by the school.

All certificated and classified staff is trained on keeping social distance from others, proper use of face coverings, the need for frequent and routine hand washing, and the proper use of hand sanitizer when hand washing is not an option.

Importantly, all staff is trained on educating students on COVID safety practices. Staff explicitly trains students on safety protocols of keeping social distance, caring for and wearing a face covering, proper hand washing, and the appropriate use of hand sanitizer if a hand washing station is not readily available. Training sources will be Keenan Safe Schools online modules and guidance documents from CDC, CDE, and Public Health. Staff is also trained on signs and symptoms of COVID 19, in order to properly screen students for such symptoms.

Staff is trained on the proper use of cleaning and disinfecting supplies through the Keenan Safe Schools. All staff has access to cleaning supplies and essential protective equipment to use while cleaning/disinfecting. Teachers and classified staff will clean and disinfect surfaces between groups using a common surface (tabletops, counters) throughout the day as needed. In addition, the daily schedule allows for surface cleaning during recess breaks and before/after school. Custodial staff completes intensified cleaning and disinfecting in each room of the building at the conclusion of each school day. All cleaning supplies are EPA approved for COVID-19.

All staff is trained on signs of COVID-related illness, and is vigilant in observing for and reporting signs immediately to the school office. Reported students will be sent to the isolation room in the main office for further evaluation. Parents have been notified of COVID rapid testing option available at school. Students may be tested and evaluated and/or parent is required to immediately pick up their student.

Staff and students who are sick are expected to stay home. This existing school policy will be expressly reiterated and enforced. Policy messaging is provided to parents, students, and staff in back to school information, campus signage, trainings.

The school conducts antigen rapid testing for staff and students on site. The school has the ability to perform regular screening and monitoring testing for students and employees, and does so including weekly testing for unvaccinated employees in accordance with state regulations. Extra COVID testing consideration is given to ensure compliance with CDPH guidance regarding staff and student participants in extra-curricular activities like athletics. Parents have been notified appropriately of this availability. The school is compliant with Public Health, CDE, and state government regarding regular testing of unvaccinated and vaccinated staff and students according to the most recent guidelines. Testing results are uploaded and reported to public health via the Primary Health platform.

Cuddeback School closely follows CDPH Guidance for K-12 Schools regarding any COVID-related for students and staff:

7. Quarantine recommendations for vaccinated close contacts

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

8. 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. See the K-12 Schools Guidance 2021-2022 Questions & Answers for additional recommendations to focus on high-value contact tracing to protect students and staff.

a. When both parties were wearing a mask in any school setting in which students are supervised by school staff (including indoor or outdoor school settings and school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems), unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet) may undergo a modified 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 quarantine; and
- iv. Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

9. Quarantine duration recommendations for unvaccinated close contacts in:

- Standard quarantine (i.e., students who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the exposure); OR
- Modified quarantine (i.e., students as described in #8 above).

a. These contacts, if they 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 test specimen (i.e., antigen diagnostic test, PCR/molecular diagnostic test, or pooled PCR/molecular test) is collected on or 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 should:

- 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.

10. Isolation recommendations

a. For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the CDPH Isolation Guidance for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

Social distancing is encouraged at this time; however, with strict indoor masking in place, students in a typical classroom setting are not restricted to a 6 ft. distancing requirement, nor prohibited from using multiple classrooms for instruction.

The general public is not allowed on campus at this time to limit outside exposure at school. Large community gatherings such as awards assemblies, fundraiser dinners, school carnival are suspended or conducted with only students and staff as appropriate and practicable.

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.

In case of isolation, quarantine, or future school closures, Cuddeback School will continue to provide a full range of academic, social emotional, and nutrition services to our students. Currently, all students have access to a device. If the need arises, students will utilize their device from home in order to access online academic instruction from their classroom teacher. Students will also receive additional intervention support and special education services, as required by the students individualized education plan or need. These additional services include services for our EL students. Social emotional support will also be provided remotely, facilitated by the school counselor. Weekly schoolwork drop off and pick up will be instituted for those students requiring paper and pencil tasks. Materials will be delivered to those families that are unable to come to the school in person. Daily school meals will be made available to all students. Families that are unable to pick up meals can opt to have meals delivered.

The school will make every effort to provide any of these services to students in person on campus as possible utilizing 1:1, small groups, varying hours of service, or other means as appropriate.

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.

Cuddeback School's Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services was discussed and developed with staff and community stakeholder input gathered originally in the development of the school's COVID-19 School Site-Specific Protection Plan (SSPP) and CalOSHA Covid Protection Plan in the spring and fall of 2020. The plan and its revisions are shared and discussed with parents, teachers, classified staff, and students through School Board of Trustees meetings, staff development meetings, classroom instruction, and personal interactions on and off campus. The Plan is posted on the school's website, and is updated every six months, or as state and local Public Health guidance dictates.

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:

http://www.cuddebackschool.org/_theme/files/Safety%20Plan%20for%20Website.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.

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