

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:

Westside Elementary School, Yosemite Valley Charter 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.

Yosemite Valley Charter School (YVC) is a non-classroom based independent study program. YVC will submit a new Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan and will post its plan within 30 days of receiving funds.

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.

Yosemite Valley Charter School is a non-classroom-based independent study charter school. Daily instruction, facilitated by a credentialed teacher of record, is virtual and/or provided by the parent in the home, not in a school facility.

Yosemite Valley Charter School does contract with a service provider to operate a Lending Library at the school office, located at 3610 E. Ashlan Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726. While parents and students are not required to come

into the Lending Library facility to access resources, parents are allowed to make an appointment to come into the facility to check out school resources, such as books and supplies. Families are also able to check out Lending Library resources, virtually, through a website. The Lending Library and school office may be made available for teachers, counselors, or Special Education service providers to schedule one on one or small group support, as needed.

For those staff and families who choose to utilize the Lending Library or enter the school office, the following plan has been created incorporating guidelines from state and local health departments and CharterSAFE. The information included has been developed with the most current information known at the time and may be amended as guidance from local, state, and federal agencies changes.

Covid Safety Policies and Procedures:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/17d0loUz1c8mv5FYtEd8pf63sjooEwL-j3rx-9wfH74/edit?usp=sharing>

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.

Yosemite Valley Charter School is a non-classroom-based independent study charter school. Continuity of services, including meeting the needs of students with disabilities and English Learners, is ensured as our programs and services are provided virtually as more fully described in our Local Control and Accountability Plan. Highlights include:

Academic Supports

Yosemite Valley Charter School will provide academic supports through a high-quality educational program that includes a standards-aligned curriculum and research-based instructional strategies facilitated by a credentialed teacher in partnership with the learning coach in the home. Designated instruction and supports for English Learners and their families are provided, including access to supplemental academic support programs. Teachers provide ongoing progress monitoring and maintain positive relationships with families through virtual learning period meetings that include both academic support and social-emotional learning resources. A comprehensive Response to Intervention program provides Tier 2 targeted reading and mathematics support for struggling students through a variety of methods including virtual individual and small group classes using Zoom. Professional learning opportunities for teachers and parents are provided to increase student academic achievement and support. YVC has also created an intervention website for parents which lists resources in teaching reading fluency, writing, and math instruction.

Social-Emotional Supports and Mental Health

Yosemite Valley Charter School will provide social-emotional supports including targeted educational lessons for students and families using CASELs SEL Framework. A Student Crisis Team is available to provide social-emotional support for students and families in crisis, including an intake process that produces a cohesive and multidisciplinary plan of action. An Assistant Director of Social-Emotional Learning and Transitions coordinates SEL training and supports for staff and students, including referrals to local agencies as needed. YVC has created a website for families containing region-specific resources for families. An SEL elective course is offered for high school students and trained and certified MHFA (Mental Health First Aid) responders are available for all students as needed. YVC plans to increase school psychologist services in the 21-22 school year, expanding to include the needs presented by all students.

In cases where individual isolation or quarantine is required of a student with disabilities and where that student requires in-person services according to an approved Individualized Education Plan (IEP), our school will work

with the family and student on an individual basis to ensure that the student has access to appropriate virtual or telephonic services during the period of isolation or quarantine.

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.

Yosemite Valley Charter School has communicated plans to all stakeholders, including teachers, administrators, other staff, students, families, and community organizations concerning learning continuity and safety protocols in place to prevent the spread of illness including COVID-19 regularly to stakeholders through our website and Beehively platforms. Stakeholder feedback from virtual meetings and local climate survey data were collected and used in the creation of this plan.

The plan will be posted on our website for further comments and to receive feedback. A hard copy of the plan will be made available in our school offices located at 3610 E. Ashlan Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726, and will also be mailed upon request to interested stakeholders. Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, the plan will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Feedback received, including ongoing feedback related to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will be reviewed by the school to ensure that the needs of our stakeholders are being met and incorporated into the final plan.

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://docs.google.com/document/d/17d0loUz1c8mv5FYtEd8pf63sjoooEwL-j3rx-9wfH74/edit?usp=sharing>

- 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. Laurie Goodman, Executive Director, Yosemite Valley Charter School, 3610 E. Ashlan Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726, Fresno County
laurie.goodman@monarchriveracademy.org

Stephanie Johnson, Co-Director, Yosemite Valley Charter School, 3610 E. Ashlan Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726, Fresno County
steph.johnson@monarchriveracademy.org