

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:

Snelling-Merced Falls Union 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.

<http://www.snelling.k12.ca.us/>

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.

SNELLING- MERCED FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT REOPENING PLAN 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

May be subject to change to adhere to Merced County Public Health regulations and/or California Department of Public Health

Updated September 3, 2021

Reopening Plan

Snelling Merced Falls Elementary opens as per the regular 2021-2022 adopted district calendar on August 11,

2021, with in-person (traditional) setting under the small cohort/groups of groups of children and youth guidelines.

For 2021–22, Local Educational Agencies (LEA) are authorized to utilize in-person instruction, distance learning, or a combination thereof to satisfy minimum school day minutes and annual instructional day requirements.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

All classrooms, offices, and other used facilities at the school site will be cleaned and disinfected daily per CDC guidelines.

All buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily at the end of the day per CDC guidelines

All computer or “digital” devices will be wiped/disinfected at the end of the day. Note: Devices will be assigned to individual students.

Cohort Plans:

Students will be cohorted by grade level and/or grade spans with no more than 14 students and two supervising adults.

Students will eat breakfast and lunch with their cohort.

Students will remain with their cohort during recess and physical education.

Entrance, Egress, and Movement Within the School:

School Hours of Operation

Five days per week

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday-Full day 8:40 - 3:05, Tuesday 8:40-2:00

School Arrival

Students will play in designated areas by cohort until the bell rings.

Close of School

Classrooms will have a dismissal schedule allowing for safe distancing of each class cohort and will wear a mask when leaving the site.

Students who are picked up will be picked up at the front of the school in the loading area.

Daily Schedule

See 2021-2022 Bell Schedule located on our website

Deliveries & Visitors

Vendors and visitors will be required to complete a Passive Screening wellness checklist:

COVID-19 Screening Checklist for Visitors/Non Employees Reporting to Snelling Merced Falls Elementary prior to entering campus in the school office.

Vendors will be allowed on campus wearing proper PPE.

Deliveries will be at designated areas.

Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear:

All staff and students will wear masks per CDPH and will be managed by teachers, staff, and administration.

Campus Safety Measures

Snelling Merced Falls will be closed to the public.

There will be one entry point during the instructional day for parents/guardians to access the office in case of an emergency or urgent matters.

School office will have a partitioned space for COVID-19 related needs or concerns.

School playground equipment will be accessible on an as-scheduled basis; only one class cohort (grade level and/or grade spans) at a time.

Appropriate safety training will be provided to all staff within their respective job function roles.

Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, all school facilities, and in hallways.

Anyone who demonstrates COVID-19 symptoms or becomes ill with COVID-19 will be sent home and the school will follow the protocols provided by California Department of Public Health, also located on our website.

Anyone who has NOT maintained 6 foot physical distancing nor worn face covering will also be quarantined if they were in close contact for 15 or more cumulative minutes with the affected person.

Students who have a sibling who is in a different classroom or school who is ill with COVID-19 and or demonstrates symptoms will be required to be quarantined.

Health Screenings for Students and Staff:

Start of School

Students will be screened prior to entering campus with a digital thermometer.

Hand sanitizer will be available to all students prior to entering campus.

CDPH recommended measures will be taken when a student, teacher, or staff member has symptoms, is in contact with someone infected, or is diagnosed with COVID-19 (attached).

Healthy Hygiene Practices:

Students and staff will have designated time throughout the day for proper handwashing, per training on August 10, 2021.

All students and staff will have their temperature checked prior to entering the bus and/or campus.

Teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.

Teach students and remind staff to use tissue to wipe their nose and to cough/sneeze inside a tissue or their elbow.

Students and staff should wash their hands frequently throughout the day, including before eating and when entering the classroom.

Students and staff should wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application. Soap products marketed as "antimicrobial" are not necessary or recommended.

Staff should model and practice handwashing. For example, for lower grade levels, use bathroom time as an opportunity to reinforce healthy habits and monitor proper handwashing.

Students and staff should use fragrance-free hand sanitizer when handwashing is not practicable. Sanitizer must be rubbed into hands until completely dry.

Identification and Tracing of Contacts:

Identification and tracing of contacts will be provided by the teacher. Snelling Merced Falls are self-contained classrooms with limited staff.

Point of contact will be Ms. Khloe Kahl, office manager, at 563-6414.
Identify contact information for the local health department where the school is located for communicating information about COVID19 outbreaks among students or staff.
Incorporate the CDPH Guidance for the use of face coverings.
Train and communicate with workers and worker representatives on the plan. Make the written plan available and accessible to workers and worker representatives.
Regularly evaluate the workplace for compliance with the plan and document and correct deficiencies identified.
Investigate any COVID-19 illness and determine if any work-related factors could have contributed to risk of infection. Update the plan as needed to prevent further cases.
Implement the necessary processes and protocols when a workplace has an outbreak, in accordance with CDPH guidelines.
Identify individuals who have been in close contact (within six feet for 15 minutes or more) of an infected person and take steps to isolate COVID-19 positive person(s) and close contacts.

Physical Distancing:

School playground equipment will be accessible on an as-scheduled basis; only one class cohort (grade level and/or grade spans) at a time.
Classroom desks will be spaced 6ft apart and facing in the same direction.
Recess has been staggered so that students remain in cohorts.
Breakfast and lunches will be served in a 'grab-n-go' style and students will sit with cohorts.
All staff were trained in COVID-19 safety training on August 10, 2021.
Teachers will enforce safety procedures with their students and continue education in COVID-19 safety as guidelines are updated.

Meals

Meal times will be staggered.
Students will be able to eat outside at designated table or in the cafeteria by cohort.
Students will eat in their cohort.
Food service staff will wear face mask during work.

Students will be able to eat their snack outside on picnic tables by cohort.

Parents will not be allowed to eat on campus.
Breakfast will be by cohort inside or outside.

Bus

Students must wear a face mask on the bus.
Students will be assigned a seat by cohort.
Active Screening - Students will be screened prior to boarding the bus with a digital thermometer.
Students will have designated seats by cohort or family members.
Buses will be equipped with hand sanitizer and students will be required to sanitize as they board the bus.
Parents will not be allowed to board the bus.
Bus drivers will wear face masks at all times.
Bus riders will wait to board the bus at the bus loading area and their temperatures will be taken prior to entering the bus. Students with a temperature may not enter the bus and will return to their parents.

Also located on our website
<http://www.snelling.k12.ca.us/>

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.

Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning:

Long Term Closure

In the event the Merced County Department of Public Health or the State of California orders schools to shut down or places a stay at home order, a long term closure will take effect.

Distance Learning and Independent Studies Option

Students and parents have the option to elect Independent Studies for the 2021-2022 school year.

Students and parents may choose to return to an in-person (traditional) setting at the end of each quarter.

Students will be required to tune in to lessons throughout the school day.

Daily and weekly attendance of student participation must be documented with the mandated instruction minutes requirement TK-3, 180 minutes, and 4-8, 240 minutes.

Additional requirements to track student attendance would be required, including a weekly engagement record is completed for each student.

Instructional time must be based on the time value of assignments, as determined by the certificated instructor and approved by the Superintendent. Includes daily live interaction with teachers and peers.

Must adhere to grade level standards, curriculum that is substantially equivalent to in-person instruction that is simultaneously occurring in the classroom setting.

Students must adhere to in-person expectations and requirements that are simultaneously occurring in the classroom setting.

Grades will be based on student assignment completion and assessment results on ABCDF grade scale.

Communication Plans:

Establish and continue communication with local and State authorities to determine current disease levels and control measures in your community. For example:

Review and refer to, if applicable, the relevant county variance documentation. Documentation can be found here.

Consult with your county health officer, or designated staff, who are best positioned to monitor and provide advice on local conditions. A directory can be found here.

Collaborate with other schools and school partners in your region, including the county office of education.

Regularly review updated guidance from state agencies, including the California Department of Public Health and California Department of Education.

ELD will be provided to all English Learners via distant learning 5 days a week for 20 minutes.

Special Education Services will be provided through distant learning for the designated time agreed upon in the Individualized Education Plan.

Speech services will also be provided following the Individualized Education Plan.

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.

A public hearing notice was posted in three locations for public input. All Stakeholder input was implemented into the learning continuity 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:
<http://www.snelling.k12.ca.us/>
- 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.
- X 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.
- X The LEA has created its plan in an understandable and uniform format.
- X 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.

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