

**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/202108359.pdf>
- ARP Act text: <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1319/BILLS117hr1319enr.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 School Operation Guidance: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schoolschildcare/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_FINAL_b0cd6833f6f46e03ba2d97d30aff953260028045f9ef3b18ea602db4b32b1d99.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: Carter G. Woodson Public Charter School

County-District-School (CDS) Code: 10621661030840

Option for ensuring safe in-person instruction and continuity of services:

has developed a plan

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.

The LEA will be submitting a new plan to meet prescribed guidelines to the following district website <https://www.agapeschools.org>. The plan will be posted 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.

The LEA in consultation with the Fresno County Department of Public Health (FCDPH) and California Department of Public Health have established a criterion for health and safety, closures, restrictions, and recommendation. LEA will comply with any and all local, state, and federal response efforts, emergency response orders, or recommendations from various health agencies, including but not limited to: Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA), California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CalOSHA), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The LEA will obtain and supply recommended PPE for employees and students, such as: Mask, Face Shields, Gloves, Hand Sanitizers, Hand Soap and water and Protective Desk Barriers to all sites. The LEA requires all employees, students and visitors who report to a work and visit a site/location (in-person) to "self-certify" their health, by documenting their daily temperature checks within the COVID questionnaire. To assure that employees and students are free from fever and respiratory illness or completely recovered from a confirmed COVID-19 illness, case management will only allow staff and students to return to work/school when safe to do so. All employees are expected to report to work for their normal and customary assignments as directed by their immediate supervisor. Although the expectation is that employees work predominately in-person, alternative staff options may be considered. If subcontractors are on premises, we will work in conjunction with the employer to verify that, their employees are provided with the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment. All policies and procedures can be found on the LEA's website using the following link: <https://www.agapeschools.org/re-opening-of-schools.html>.

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 food services.

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 conduct a needs assessment to identify the needs of the school, students, and teachers. The goal is to identify the proper resources, learning opportunities and supports to ensure needs are met to promote on-time graduation for all students. Staff will be provided with professional development with social emotional learning (SEL) strategies, student engagement and higher order thinking skills to reduce chronic absenteeism for students, increase academic interest, reduce credit-deficiency, and coping mechanisms for their personal and professional needs to increase instructional time and reduce learning gaps. In the case of future school closures, we will use our multi-Tiered levels of support for our students and provide personalized student support services for all students. To ensure students with disabilities and English learners are met, we will be prioritized technology rollouts, one-on-one and small group instruction (via Zoom or in person) and any other resources necessary for continued success. In addition, school counselors will work teachers and support staff by providing additional support with meeting the social and emotional needs that may require services with consulting therapist and contracted district psychologist. All procedures will be available to all stakeholders for maintaining a safe and secure work and learning environment to reduce loss of learning due to mental, health, social economic status barriers and designation such as EL, homeless, foster and at-risk students.

Additional support and supervision will be provided to students with disabilities including extended learning opportunities with the After-school program, enrichment, and health and wellness programs. Our nutrition program from the food service department will provide breakfast, lunch and snacks to students receiving instruction in-person, hybrid (if applicable) and distance learning (if applicable) ensuring student's health and nutrition needs are met during the academic year.

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.

Carter G. Woodson involved all stakeholders which includes parents and guardians, teachers, support staff, the Board of Directors, and students. Stakeholders were given opportunities to provide input through School Site Council, DELAC Committee, and Parent Council. The Board of Directors provided input with designing our plan to support the needs of our students. Surveys, written and electronic, were provided to the public to collect feedback and comments for the plan. In addition to the surveys, materials and announcements are communicated in English and other languages based on the home language survey through newsletters, school messenger, email, the district website and personal calls for all upcoming events, messages regarding safety protocols and procedures, and resources to support community and student needs. In the event case isolation, quarantine, or future school closures are required, the LEA has designed a targeted and prescribed master schedule to continue daily delivery of instruction, support for students with disabilities, and EL support to reduce loss of learning and provide targeted intervention that may impact on-time graduation and reducing the achievement gap for students.

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.

Please insert link to the plan:

<https://www.agapeschools.org/agape-inc-reporting.html>

- 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 parents 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 forementioned 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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