

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:

Williams Unified 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.

Williams USD is submitting a new plan and will post it 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.

Williams Unified School District utilized the California Department of Education's Checklist for Reopening Schools for the following main categories:

- Local Conditions to Guide Reopening Decisions
- Plan to Address Positive COVID-19 Cases or Community Surges
- Injury and Illness Prevention Plan
- Campus Access
- Hygiene
- Protective Equipment
- Physical Distancing

- Cleaning/Disinfecting
- Employee Issues
- Communication with Students, Parents, Employees, Public Health Officials, and the Community

Williams Unified School District is fully committed to the health and safety of our students, employees, and visitors, and making sure the workplace is free of any recognizable hazards. As an employer and as educators, we are committed to mitigating the spread of the novel coronavirus or “COVID-19,” a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, at school and the worksite. In order to be safe and maintain operations, we have developed this COVID-19 Exposure Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program (“Program”) to be implemented throughout the District and at all of our schools and worksites. We have also identified a team of employees to monitor this pandemic and provide updates as necessary. It is the intent of this District to comply with all laws. To do this, we must constantly be aware of conditions in all work areas that can produce exposure to COVID-19. No employee is required to work at a job the employee knows is not safe or healthful.

All employees are responsible for using safe work practices, following all directives, policies and procedures, and assisting in maintaining a safe work environment. Employees are also responsible for whole-hearted, genuine compliance with all aspects of this Program while performing their duties to minimize the spread of the virus at our workplace. We are asking our employees to help with our prevention efforts while at work and with regular health and safety education of students and visitors. Specific questions about this Program should be directed to Superintendent Sandra Ayón, Ed.D. In addition to those set forth in this Program, students, employees, and visitors must adhere to the following expectations:

- Stay at home when sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Do not come to school or work if any member of your household is sick.
- Keep a minimum distance of three (3) feet from others when possible.
- Refrain from shaking hands, hugging, or touching others.
- Wear appropriate face coverings indoors, unless an exception to this requirement applies.
- Clean surfaces before and after use in common areas, and when using shared equipment.
- Avoid touching the mouth, nose, and eyes.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Wash/sanitize hands multiple times daily, including before and after work or school; during breaks; before and after eating; after coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose; and before and after going to the restroom.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and immediately discard it after use and wash/sanitize hands. If no tissues are available, cover the mouth with shoulder or elbow and then wash/sanitize hands.
- Avoid sharing personal items with other students or coworkers (e.g., food, dishes, lunch boxes, gloves).
- Follow all CDC, State, and local health department guidelines on use, removal, cleaning, and disinfection of face coverings.
- Adhere to all signage posted on district property regarding wearing face coverings, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and staying home when sick.

More information can be located on our website: www.williamsusd.net

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.

Williams Unified School District believes that classroom-based instruction is the best method of instructional delivery from both an academic and social-emotional standpoint for students; however, we understand that some students may not be able to return to the physical classroom environment due to reasons regarding COVID-19 Independent Study will be an available option for these families. Parents wanting to choose this option for their child must:

- Notify the individual school
- Understand that students will be required to attend to school work daily and have daily interaction with the instructor
- Ensure their child participates in Independent Study. Students that fail to participate or engage for 60% of the school week will be redirected through the District's Re-engagement Strategies.

Williams Unified School District believes that in-person instruction is the best option for our students; however, there may be a time when the district again has to close schools due to a pandemic and implement Independent Study for all students. The following applies:

- All students will have immediate access to a take-home computer device. Google Suite applications will be utilized (age appropriate)
- Families having no wi-fi access will be given a hotspot
- Students will have daily interaction with teacher and peers
- Attendance will be taken and engagement monitored
- Subject matter grade level content lessons will be taught and progress monitoring will take place
- Academic and other supports will be available to address the needs of students

Williams Unified School District will continue to provide breakfast and lunch service for all students who would like to participate. The following will be implemented to provide meals in a safe environment:- Food for each individual school site will be prepared by the staff at that site

- Students will not be asked to key in their lunch numbers on a keypad. Staff will do the necessary entering.
- Elementary students will wash or sanitize their hands prior to eating lunch
- Elementary students will eat outside if the weather permits
- Breakfast will be served as 'grab and go'
- Food service staff will wear appropriate personal protective equipment in the preparation and serving of food
- Middle and high school students will use hand sanitizer as they enter the cafeteria prior to eating
- Middle and high school students getting a school lunch will go to the cafeteria and stand in a socially distanced line to pick up their food tray. .
- Students participating in Independent Study may participate in the grab and go curbside pickup of meals at the elementary school.

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.

Input will be gathered during the 2021-2022 school year via the district (website) email and public comment for Board of Education meetings.

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:
www.williamsusd.net
- 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.

Sandra Ayón, Ed.D. ,Superintendent; Williams Unified School District, 260 11th Street, Williams, CA 95987; sayon@williams.k12.ca.us; 530-473-2550