

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:

Scotia Union 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.

The LEA has a compliant plan, found at <https://scotiasd.hcoe.org/policies/>

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.

UPDATED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH UPDATED GUIDANCE EFFECTIVE AFTER MARCH 9, 2023.

Scotia School has an adopted COVID-19 School Site-Specific Protection Plan (SSPP) based on the template Site-Specific Protection Plan provided by Humboldt County Office of Education and Humboldt County Public Health. Scotia 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 Re-entry", 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 In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services is based on these plans. These plans can be found at scotiasd.hcoe.org under the "Plans" and "COVID 19" tabs.

Masks are no longer required on campus after March 11, 2022. However, the school provides essential protective equipment, including face coverings, for all students and staff that request them. Face coverings are found in each classroom as well as the office.

Students are also instructed on hand washing. Sinks and soap to do so are located in each restroom and in each classroom. Hand sanitizer dispensers are located at the entrance of all rooms in the school building, and at all entrances to the building. All student use of student hand sanitizer is monitored by a staff member. Anti Microbial soap is not recommended. Hand sanitizer that contains methanol is not used.

All staff is trained on educating students on safety practices. Training sources are 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.

All staff is trained on the proper use of cleaning and disinfecting supplies through the Keenan Safe Schools Training Portal. All staff has access to cleaning supplies and essential protective equipment to use while cleaning/disinfecting. Regular cleaning/disinfecting of classrooms, restrooms, the cafeteria, and other common areas takes place before and/or after school hours. All cleaning supplies are EPA approved for COVID-19. Scotia School parents are instructed and expected to notify the school if their child is experiencing symptoms of COVID 19, or tests positive for COVID 19. All staff is trained on signs of illness, and is vigilant in observing for and reporting signs immediately to the front office. In the classroom, teachers are vigilant for signs of illness in students and follow school protocols when a child becomes ill. When a staff member reports to the office, the student is sent to the nurse's room, adjacent to the school office. Parents/guardians are notified, and they are offered the option their student being given a COVID 19 rapid test administered at school. If the test is negative, the student returns to class. If the test is positive, the student is required to wear a face mask and remains in the nurse's room until picked up. The school secretary informs the parent/guardian of quarantine requirements, and enters all testing information in the PRIMARY online portal.

Families of students are instructed to remain home if the student exhibits any symptoms of being ill. Staff is provided with Scotia School's written guidance to remain at home if exhibiting any signs of illness. If a staff member tests positive for COVID 19, the staff member is to remain at home until a negative test result is achieved.

The school has provided information about testing opportunities to staff members, including in-house rapid testing through the school office, as well as home tests provided by the school. The in school testing is also available to students with appropriate parental permission, and tests are sent home with parents and students for home use. Parents will be notified of student testing opportunities and will be asked permission prior to any student testing at school.

The most up to date School COVID 19 flowchart, provided by the Humboldt County Department of Public Health and the Humboldt County Office of Education is utilized when making decisions related to COVID 19.

Scotia School encompasses a large campus with a great deal of outdoor space. Teachers utilize this outdoor space for instruction, consuming of meals, and recreation to the greatest extent possible. Interior non-classroom spaces such as the library, cafeteria, learning lab, center complexes, intervention/counseling room, and music room are utilized for small group instruction if exterior spaces are not conducive to the activity. However, the utilization of exterior spaces is preferred to the utilization of interior multi-use spaces. Interior non-classroom spaces will be used only when previously scheduled.

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, Scotia School will continue to provide a full range of academic, social emotional, and nutrition services to our students. Currently, all students are assigned a device. If the need arises, students will have their device at home in order to access online services. The school has surveyed all families regarding connectivity, and is in possession of enough hotspots for those families who do not have internet access. These hotspots will be assigned to families as the need arises. If the need to remain at home occurs, students will use their devices to access daily 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 by a school employee.

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.

Scotia School's Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services was discussed and developed with staff and community educational partner input. This plan is based on the school's COVID-19 School Site-Specific Protection Plan (SSPP) and CalOSHA Covid Protection Plan. The SSPP was developed with input from staff, educational partners, and the Humboldt County Department of Public Health. The plan was shared and discussed with educational partners at a School Board of Trustees meeting. The Plan is posted on the school's website, and is updated every six months, and as state and local Public Health guidance dictates. The most recent updated version of this plan was shared and discussed with stakeholders at a public School Board of Trustees meeting on December 9, 2021, March 10, 2022, October 13, 2022, and March 9, 2023.

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:

scotiasd.hcoe.org

- 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.

Amy Gossien, Superintendent/Principal
Scotia Union School District
417 Church Street
Scotia, Humboldt County, California, 95565