



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_117/hr1319enr.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/guidanceuseseinvestment.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: Gompers Preparatory Academy

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.

Gompers Preparatory Academy 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.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are strongly recommended for all students, staff and permitted visitors. During the Active Screening process, if a student, staff member, or permitted visitor, does not have a mask and would like to wear one, a disposable mask will be provided for him/her. Face coverings help to make sure if a person is carrying the virus, it is not being transferred to someone else. Face coverings such as masks or clear face shields are important. Masks help control respiratory droplets transmission. Masks are meant to protect other people in case the person who is wearing the mask carries COVID-19 but does not know it. Students and staff will be provided information in regards to proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings ([CDPH- Guidance for the use of Face Coverings](#)).

Physical Distancing (facilities)

Physical distancing is being implemented where possible. Currently, only essential visitors are allowed. The entrances and exits are kept separate and have cues with ground decals indicating where to stand for physical distancing when needed. Directional decals and signage to reduce movement and mixing of student groups to the greatest extent possible.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

We encourage staff and students to hand wash and use hand sanitizer when entering the campus. There is signage throughout the campus to encourage employees to wash their hands after using the restroom and before using any shared appliances such as a microwave and/or refrigerator. Touch-free hand sanitizers have been provided in every classroom/building. Student restrooms have handwashing and hand sanitizing dispensers placed outside. Restrooms are limited to 2 persons at a time. Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California recommended that portable handwashing stations be placed throughout the campus and near classrooms to minimize movement and potential long lines to use the restroom to wash one's hands. Therefore, portable handwashing stations have been stationed throughout the GPA campus.



Handwashing occurs:

1. After using the restroom
2. Before eating
3. When entering a classroom or office
4. After putting on face mask/face shield
5. If hands are visibly soiled
6. If the staff member has encountered chemicals or other items such as soil in a science lab, art room, or other educational venue
7. If the staff member encountered chemicals during cleaning the school environment

Students and staff will be instructed to cover nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing, use tissues to contain respiratory secretions, dispose of tissues in the nearest waste receptacle after use and perform hand hygiene after contact with respiratory secretions and possible contact with contaminated objects/materials.

Cleaning and Ventilation

According to the COVID -19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2020-2021 School Year (published January 14, 2021), Frequently touched surfaces in the school include, but are not limited to:

1. Door handles
2. Sink handles
3. Shared tables, desks, or chairs
4. Shared technology and supplies

We implement the following cleaning and disinfection measures for frequently touched surfaces:

GPA has a Cleaning & Disinfecting Schedule.

The custodial team has been trained on cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting protocols as outlined by the CDC and EPA. Each member of the team has their own cleaning cart, supplies, PPE, and electrostatic sprayer. They work staggered shifts beginning at 6:30am until 7:30pm. Sanitizing and disinfecting schedules have been designed by zones for each member of the custodial team to maintain social distancing while performing their cleaning duties. Checklists are placed in each restroom and common area indicating the date and time of last cleaning and signed off by the custodian when cleaning is performed. The cleaning schedule will include the following:



Cleaning Shift 1: 6:30am-10:00am

- Clean and sanitize staff and student restrooms
- Clean and sanitize copy center and any common areas
- Clean and sanitize outdoor equipment and furniture
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces - door handles, light switches, tables and chairs, hard surfaces, wash stations

Cleaning Shift 2: 10:00am-2:00pm

- Clean and sanitize staff and student restrooms
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces - door handles, light switches, tables and chairs, hard surfaces, wash stations
- Clean and sanitize unoccupied classrooms and office areas
- Clean and sanitize lunch and eating areas
- Clean and sanitize all other areas around campus as needed

Cleaning Shift 3 2:00pm-6:30pm

- Clean and sanitize staff and student restrooms
- Clean and sanitize outdoor equipment and furniture
- Clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces - door handles, light switches, tables and chairs, hard surfaces, wash stations
- Clean and sanitize main office building
- Disinfect nursing station
- Disinfect Isolation area

The custodians are using those disinfecting products that are approved for use against COVID-19. We are making sure that we have adequate supplies to minimize the sharing of high-touch items (such as art supplies and games), limiting the use of these supplies, and cleaning and disinfecting the objects between each use.

The custodial staff is using the “Hard Surface Sanitizer” and the biobased floor cleaner/deodorizer based on the instructions on the containers. Additionally, handheld and backpack sprayers were purchased to efficiently and effectively disinfect all hard and porous surfaces on campus and inside classrooms/offices. The cleaning & disinfecting products are to be safely put away from the view of students.



Drinking fountains have and will remain turned off in order to prevent the spread of illness. Touch free water dispensers will be provided for students and staff to refill reusable water bottles. We also have disposable cups available for use at each water fill station.

We maximize, to the extent feasible, the quantity of outside air for our buildings with mechanical or natural ventilation systems by:

- Proper ventilation is to be in place when cleaning and disinfecting the classrooms/rooms throughout the campus. The custodial staff will do a thorough cleaning and disinfecting when the students are not present, either before school, during lunch, or after dismissal. Handheld and backpack sprayers were purchased to efficiently and effectively disinfect all hard and porous surfaces on campus and inside classrooms/offices. Classrooms/offices/workspaces will have enough ventilation and windows will be open (if weather permits), so there is an adequate and increased circulation of outdoor air. GPA cleaned and had the HVAC system inspected.
- Filters were replaced and/or upgraded to HEPA filters or Merv 13 filters. Air exchange was adjusted to maximize the amount of outside air circulating through the system. Air purifiers were ordered to be placed inside classrooms/offices to provide “air exchanges” every 12-15 minutes, removing harmful pathogens that may be circulating indoors.

Contact Tracing

Gompers Preparatory Academy uses the [COVID-19 Notification Form](#) to report and track all COVID-19 cases. The information will be made available to employees, authorized employee representatives, or as otherwise required by law, with personal identifying information removed. An employee from the Epidemiology Branch provides GPA Administration with a template to complete (i.e person infected, birthdate, first day the employee had the symptoms, and the employees that that employee had close contact with).

Reporting of confirmed positive and suspected cases in students, staff and employees will be consistent with [Reporting Requirements](#) set forth by the CDPH.

Our school nurse and health office assistant will serve as the designated staff persons to support contact tracing, such as creation and submission of lists of exposed students and staff to the local health department and notification of exposed persons. They will work in coordination with our LHO (Local Health Office) liaison.

Testing



Students and staff will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and will be separated from others and sent home immediately. Symptomatic and response testing will be provided on site at our health office at no cost to students/staff.

Vaccinations

Vaccination information has been promoted on our social media. Information has been provided to our students, staff, and families through our health office and by our school nurse. Gompers Preparatory Academy will continue to promote vaccination information as it becomes available.

Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Face Masks are strongly recommended for all students in grades 6 through 12 under most circumstances. Face shields are also available for students that have difficulty wearing a mask properly or tolerating a face covering.

Coordination of State and local health officials

Gompers Preparatory Academy attends weekly tele briefings held by the San Diego County Health Office which discusses the latest guidelines set forth by the CDPH, CDC, and Local Health Order. Revisions and modifications to our program are based on the latest recommendations and protocols outlined by these health agencies.

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.

Gompers Preparatory Academy will provide high-quality instruction to all students, 5 days a week. Google Classroom will be utilized as the learning management system. All assignments and links for teacher/student interaction will be posted on Google Classroom, as well as asynchronous learning activities and assignments. Students and staff will have access to school issued computers and personal hotspots or mifi devices. Earphones will also be available for use. Staff will also be available during office hours to provide instruction and answer questions daily. Teachers may be using supplemental resources for instruction and assignments which can be provided virtually.



GOMPERS PREPARATORY ACADEMY

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Gompers Preparatory Academy students receive nutritionally adequate breakfast and lunch each day. Families needing support with obtaining breakfast and/or lunch during a case of isolation or quarantine will be handled by our Office of Student Affairs.

The mental health and social-emotional well-being of students are monitored by GPA staff, teachers, and the counseling team. Implementing social and emotional learning will be the goal for instruction. Continual monitoring and counseling referrals will be implemented during case isolation, quarantine or school closure. Progress monitoring will be on-going for our students with unique needs at all grade levels. All teachers and staff members who provide services to English learners, foster youth, students experiencing homelessness, and students with exceptional needs, will determine students' needs for intervention and additional services based on formal and informal assessments, meetings, and parent conferences. Teachers and staff members will check-in with students, including English learners, foster youth, low-income, and students experiencing homelessness, in need of intervention and additional support. Our goal is to provide additional support to students and families to strengthen academic and social-emotional skills. Accommodations are made on a case by case basis for our English learners, students with disabilities, and foster youth or students experiencing homelessness. Accommodations include but are not limited to, provided access to the internet via mifi devices, providing one-on-one instruction during teacher office hours and providing a school chromebook device and school supplies. All accommodations are made following physical distancing and health department guidelines. The accommodations provided will allow students who have been identified for social-emotional intervention to receive services via zoom and/or phone with counselors and/or the school psychologist. Students with an IEP will still receive services, including speech, via distance learning. These services will include 1-on-1 instruction and support with work given by general education teachers, in-person assessments, as well as assessing the goals and needs of each student as indicated in the IEP. Psychological services and counseling will also be provided to meet the social and emotional needs of all students, including those with an IEP, foster youth, and children experiencing homelessness who have been referred and/or will be referred for services. The IEP team will take into account the unique needs of the students served in order to determine the best placement and appropriate services.

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.



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Director Riveroll and the leadership team have held regular video conference meetings with parents to create open lines of communication between parents and school leadership. Director Riveroll has also hosted meetings with parents, so we can learn more about what is working well for our families during the 2021-22 school year and what opportunities we have to improve the learning and support experiences of our students and families. Director Riveroll has held meetings with teachers and staff that allows for feedback and conversation about any improvements and/or changes to our program. GPA has held Board meetings during the 21-22 school year. Due to health and safety concerns related to COVID-19, these meetings are held via Zoom and livestreamed for the public to view via YouTube. To comply with the Brown Act to the fullest extent possible, meeting agendas and related documents are shared with the public via BoardDocs, an online board document portal. Stakeholders may submit comments for agenda and non-agenda items via the publiccomment@gomperscharter.org email address.

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.gompersprep.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/LEA-Plan-for-Safe-Return-to-Individual-Instruction-and-Continuity-of-Services-2.pdf>

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 parents 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.



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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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