Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Template

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief 3.0 (ESSER 3.0) Fund was announced under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, enacted on March 11, 2021. ARP ESSER Funding provides a total of nearly $122 billion to states and local educational agencies (LEAs) to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the nation's students. In addition to ARP ESSER Funding, ARP includes $3 billion for special education, $850 million for the outlying areas, $2.75 billion to support non-public schools, and additional funding for homeless children and youth, Tribal educational agencies, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives.

LEAs must develop and make publicly available a Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan that meets the following requirements within thirty (30) days of receiving ARP ESSER allocation. If an LEA developed a plan before ARP was enacted that does not address the requirements, the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after it last reviewed its plan. All plans must be developed with meaningful public consultation with stakeholder groups (i.e., families, students, teachers, principals, school and district administrators, school leaders, other educators, school staff, advocacy organizations representing student groups). The consultation process must include an opportunity for input and meaningful consideration of that input. ARP ESSER plans to be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally interpreted; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an accessible format. All plans must be made publicly available on the LEA's website and published on the Tennessee Department of Education's (department) website within thirty (30) days.

LEAs must update the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through Sept. 30, 2023, seek public input on the plan and any revisions, and take such input into account. All revisions must include an explanation and rationale of why the revisions were made.

LEA Name:
Valor Voyager Academy

Plan Date:
6/1/2021
Consultation with Stakeholders

1. Describe how the LEA will, in planning for the use of ARP ESSER funds, engage in meaningful consultation with stakeholders, including, but not limited to:
   i. students;
   ii. families;
   iii. school and district administrators (including special education administrators); and
   iv. teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions.
   v. Tribes;
   vi. civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); and
   vii. stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children and youth in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

Valor’s senior leadership team is made up of network-wide leaders and principals of each school, which allows us to really have very effective team decision making and stakeholder engagement. Valor engages in meaningful consultation with students and families through regular two-way communication and twice-yearly survey implementation, which has >90% participation rate. Additionally, Valor uses its faculty survey to ask teachers about what they are observing and how we can best serve students; we go even further on this with teachers and administrators who oversee our special populations, including students with disabilities (ranging from mild to severe), English Language Learners, and work with our school counselors to make sure that we are also considering the needs of students that may be experiencing homelessness or some other life hardship. Additionally, we consult with partner organizations that are critical to our community for counsel - one in particular is the Amed Family Clinic, a primary care/walk in clinic that serves many of our non-English speaking families.

2. Provide an overview of how the public stakeholder input was considered in the development of the LEA’s plan for ARP ESSER funds.

Public stakeholder input was critical to the development of Valor’s plan for ARP ESSER funds. We used our fall and spring survey windows for our three largest stakeholder groups to add additional questions about ways in which we could utilize ESSER funds to inform priorities for our planning. We make sure to translate the languages of the survey accessible to all stakeholders, as we have a very diverse student population. We also gather input from the other stakeholders listed above to create our plan.
3. How did the LEA compile feedback during the open comment period for the ARP Plan?

Valor compiled feedback from regular survey data from student surveys, family surveys, and staff surveys as well as assessment data to inform priorities for learning recovery and acceleration. In addition, Valor’s leadership team held office hours and other opportunities to engage stakeholders in a less formal manner to compile feedback.

4. How was the input considered during the open comment period time?

Input during the open comment time was considered and compiled into a central document where we could easily refer to it as we created and are consistently revising this plan as the pandemic evolves.
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

1. Describe to the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the following health and safety strategies:
   - universal and correct wearing of masks;
   - physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);
   - hand washing and respiratory etiquette;
   - cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities,
   - including improving ventilation;
   - contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine;
   - diagnostic and screening testing;
   - efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; and
   - appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.

For the return to in-person schooling in Spring 2021, Valor has adopted the following safety policies:
- Masks must be worn by every person at all times
- Contact tracing is a regular component of the school health team and includes isolation and quarantine requirements as directed by Metro Health and TDH
- Reminders on handwashing and sharing of materials
- Increased cleaning procedures and periodic deep cleaning, and as needed per contact tracing
- Staff daily temp checks and screeners
- We have hosted one vaccine clinic for our community with over 500+ attendees from the area we are located, and are hosting a second clinic in June 2021 geared towards students ages 12+
- Accommodations given to students with alternate needs per consultation with IEP team
- All Valor schools have newer model AC Units that utilize outside return air, and this helps to ensure that fresh air is being circulated in the buildings at all times. Additionally, Valor has installed iWave air purifiers to AC units. When air passes over the iWave, ions produced by the device reduce pathogens and other airborne particles, creating a healthy environment without producing any harmful byproducts.
Continuity of Services Plan

1. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services including, but not limited to, services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

We have experienced first-hand that in-person access to school is the best approach for students to be educated, have equitable and effective access to educational opportunities, access necessary support and nutrition, as well as engage in activities which promote social and emotional wellness. We would like families to feel comfortable and confident in sending all children back to in-person learning and we are prepared to keep our schools safe. Thanks to the support of our faculty, staff, students, and community, we initially developed this plan in the 20-21 with full consideration of public comment and feedback. We have persevered throughout this year, to keep students on track and to maintain open lines of communication with our entire school community. For the 2021-22 school year, we plan to offer full in-person instruction 5 days a week only, along with expanded mental health wraparound services, food services, expanded health services, additional Tiered interventions, and extracurricular programs. If public health circumstances or state requirements change, Valor will revisit this. We will continue to make excellent use of technology for innovative learning, including providing avenues for personalized learning and enrichment, supporting learning acceleration, and for specialized courses at the secondary level.
The LEA confirms that the following grade levels for all public schools *(including charter schools, if applicable)* have an in-person option available for all students in the LEA (please do not check and write N/A if the LEA or charter school does not serve that grade level):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten, as of</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st grade, as of</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd grade, as of</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd grade, as of</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th grade, as of</td>
<td>3/22/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th grade, as of</td>
<td>3/22/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th grade, as of</td>
<td>3/22/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th grade, as of</td>
<td>3/22/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th grade, as of</td>
<td>3/22/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th grade, as of</td>
<td>3/22/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th grade, as of</td>
<td>3/22/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th grade, as of</td>
<td>3/22/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th grade, as of</td>
<td>8/1/2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I assure that the above information is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge.

R. Todd Dickson

Director of Schools (printed)